

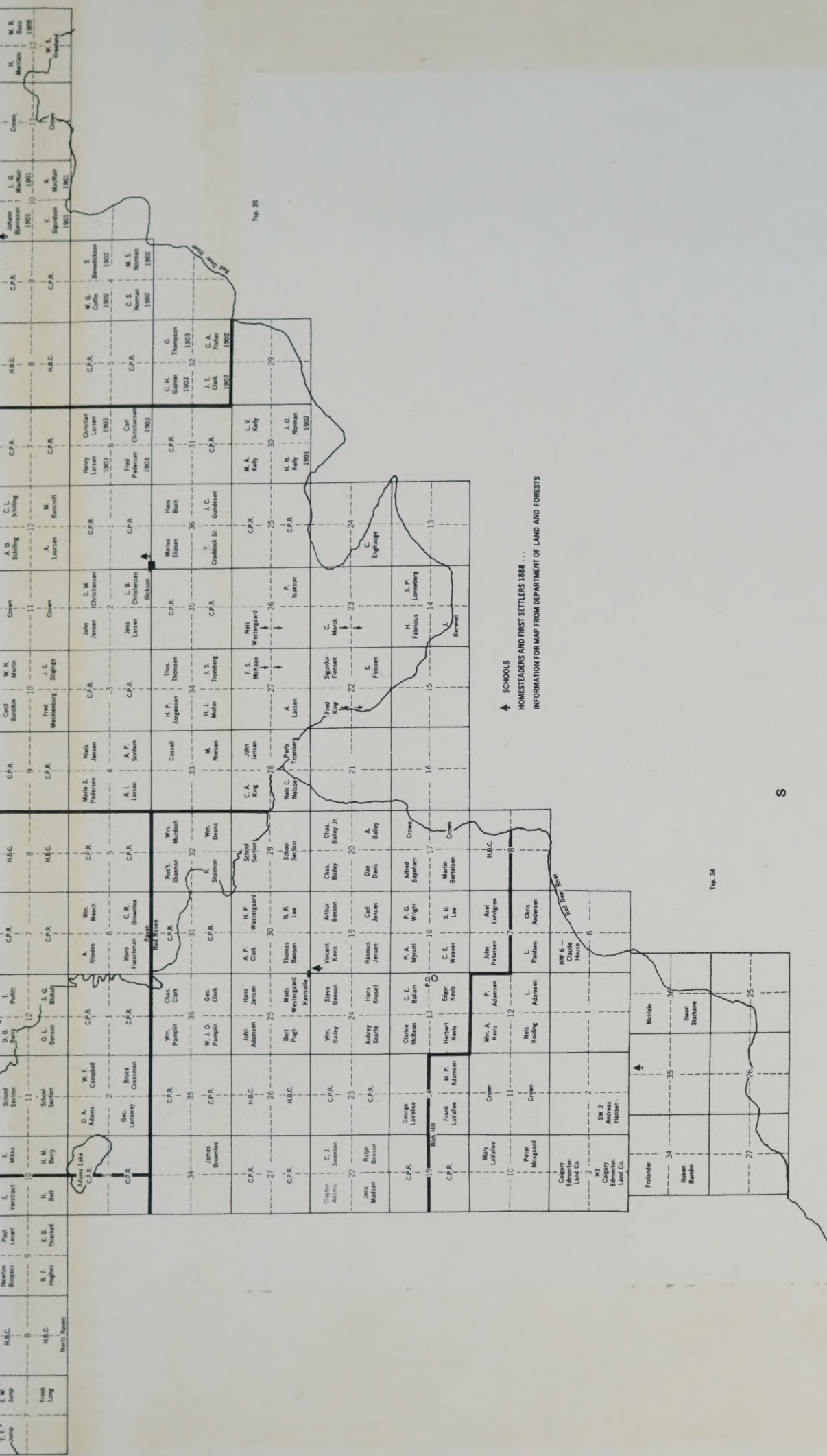


GRUB-AXE TO GRAIN...



**A HISTORY OF CRAIG, DICKSON, HAPPY HILL, HECKLA,
HOLA, MARKERVILLE, NEW HILL, NORTH RAVEN,
RAVEN, RED RAVEN, RICH HILL, SPRUCE VIEW**

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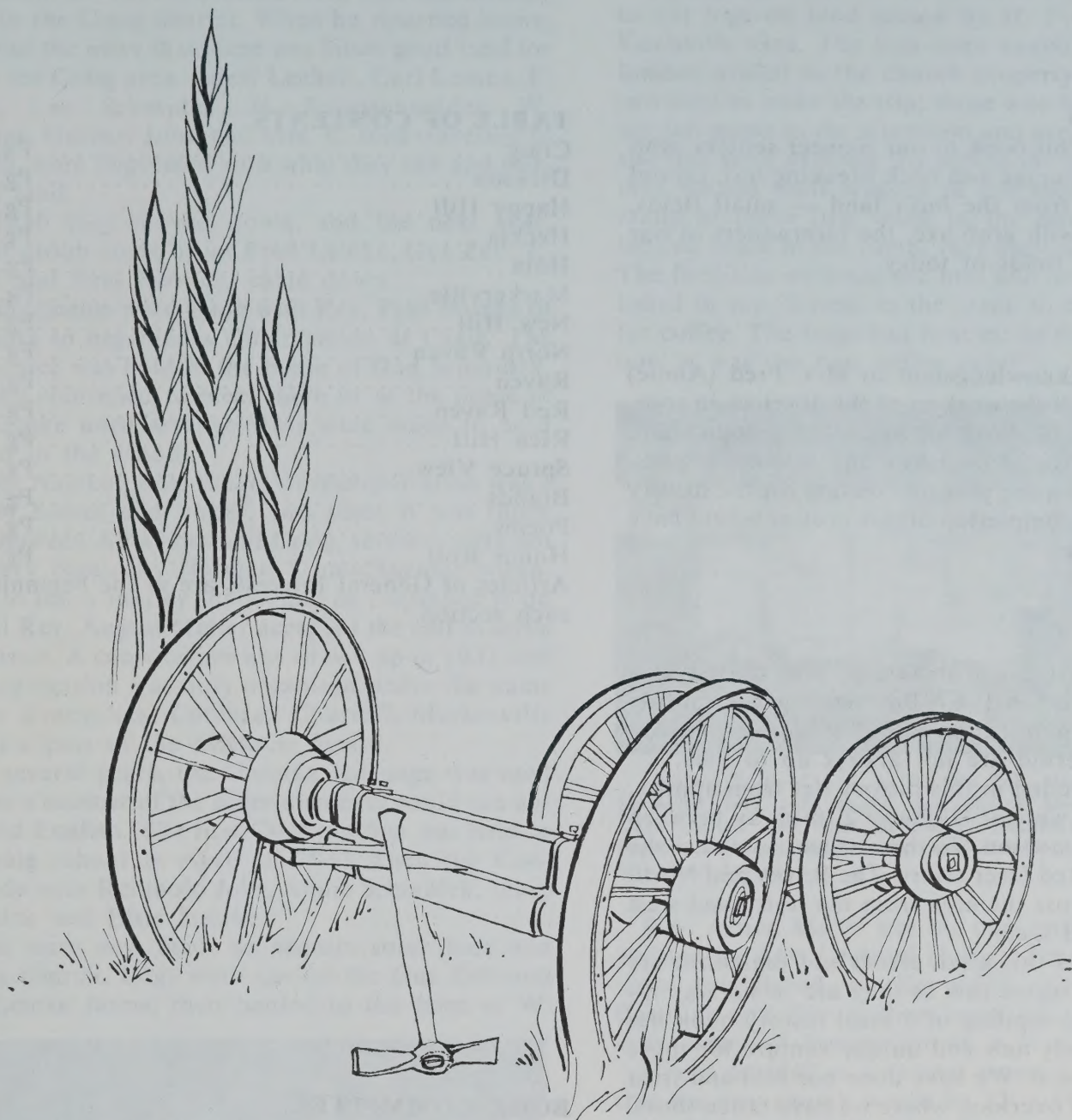


▲ SCHOOLS
HOMESTEADERS AND FIRST SETTLERS 1888
INFORMATION FOR MAP FROM DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND FORESTS

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GRUB-AXE TO GRAIN...



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DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to our pioneer settlers, who with stamina, courage and back breaking toil, carved the first farms from the bush land — small fields, slowly cleared with grub-axe, the forerunners of our bountiful grain fields of today.

A grateful acknowledgment to Mrs. Fred (Annie) Heinsen, from all the workers of the districts, in compiling this history. Without her selfless dedication, constant endeavor, leadership and encouragement, coupled with a strong personal feeling for the history of the area, the completion of this project would have been impossible.

Our book "Grub-axe to Grain" was started as a Centennial project in 1967. Progress has been steady but slow, until publication in 1973. Stories received early in this period are not always up to date.

The area included in this history lies from approx. 12 to 30 miles west of Highway 2, midway between Calgary and Edmonton. To the east and south are the Medicine and Red Deer rivers. The Raven and North Raven rivers cross the area from the north and west to join the Red Deer.

In a project of this kind, errors and omissions are inevitable. We regret this as they are in no way intentional. The compiling of a local history book has been a completely new and unique venture for those of us working on it. We have done our best and trust our readers will overlook where we have fallen short.

It would be impossible to name all those who have helped to make this project a success. We are most grateful to each one. We wish to express our deep appreciation to all of them, especially to Dorothy Boyd who did much to get our project started; to those who contributed stories, information or pictures; to those who helped with the editing and typing; to the Spruce View Hall Board for use of the hall for meetings; to Mr. Hans Hansen for use of his manuscript; to those who helped financially; to the local papers, especially the Innisfail Province; Glenbow Institute and Dept. of Lands and Forests for use of their files.

"Grub-axe to Grain", the winning entry in our "Name the Book" contest, was submitted by Mr. Niels Thesberg.

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BOOK COMMITTEE.

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CRAIG

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH by Herman Schatschneider and Helmut C. Lemke

In 1928 Leo Schmidek of Nisku, near Leduc, made a trip south to visit his brother Dan, who was already living in the Craig district. When he returned home, he spread the news that there was much good land for sale in the Craig area. Adolf Lechelt, Carl Lemke, F. Haupt, Leo Schmidek, H. Schatschneider, W. Phisterer, Herbert Jobs, and Mrs. E. Jobs travelled to the area, were impressed with what they saw and purchased land.

In 1930 they moved down, and the next year, another group made up of Fred Lemke, Gus Zelt, E. Mundt and Paul Kovach, came down.

Arrangements were made with Rev. Paul Natzke of Alhambra to organize a congregation at Craig. The first service was held at the home of Dan Schmidek, and they continued to meet there or at the home of Carl Lemke until arrangements were made to hold services in the school.

Pastor Natzke's only means of transportation was a team of horses and buggy, and since it was thirty miles between Alhambra and Craig, services were not held very regularly. Herman Schatschneider volunteered to teach Sunday School and he continued to do so until Rev. August Meiter accepted the call to serve as minister. A constitution was drawn up in 1931 and the congregation was duly organized under the name "Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church", Markerville (Craig) a part of the Missouri Synod.

For several years, the German language was used because a number of the older members could not understand English. The first Confirmation was held in the Craig school in April of 1933 when the Confirmands were Reinhold Jobs, Annie Schmidek, Mary Schmidek and Elsie Lemke.

Plans were now made to acquire some land and build a church. Logs were cut on the Gus Zelt and Fred Lemke farms, then hauled to the farm of W.

Phisterer who owned a saw mill. Later it was noted that the lumber was not suitable so it was sold privately.

In 1936 land was acquired for a church and cemetery - two acres on the north east corner of the Leo Schmidek farm. A small building was moved there to serve as a temporary church.

During the winter of 1940-41, everyone pitched in to cut logs on land leased by H. Frederick in the Kevisville area. The logs were sawed there and the lumber hauled to the church property. Since it took two days to make the trip, those who hauled the lumber left home in the afternoon and arrived at the mill site that same evening. To escape the heat of the day, they loaded their wagons in the evening and were ready to leave first thing in the morning. Due to limited space at the camp, they slept under the trees. The facilities were not the best and one member was heard to say "I went to the creek to dip some water for coffee. The frogs had beat me to the pool, but oh boy, it was the best coffee ever!"



Mission Festival — L. to R.: Gus Zelt, Herb Jobs, Mrs. Leo Schmidek, Mrs. John Kuehn, unidentified, Mrs. Gus Zelt, Mrs. Carl Lemke, Mrs. Dan Schmidek, Grandma Schatschneider, Herman Schatschneider, Susie Schatschneider, Mrs. Emma Jobs, Mrs. Fred Lemke.

Rev. Alfred Miller was the next pastor and he was assisted by Rev. Leonard Gabert. Preaching stations were established at Kevisville, Crammond and Caroline and Rev. Gabert travelled to these on his only means of transportation, a bicycle.

It was decided at a special meeting in May 1941, that the new church would be 22' x 44' with a tower over the entrance. Mr. H.A. Baron of Edmonton was hired to build the church at ninety cents an hour. He began work on the foundation but could not continue due to other commitments. Fred Lechelt of Nisku finished the building. When the outside was finished, services were held there. The first wedding was held Dec. 5, 1941 when Otto Pohl and Elsie Lemke were married. The first funeral and burial was an infant girl in March 1942. The happy occasion of the Church Dedication took place on June 14, 1942.

Other pastors who served were Rev. Paul Guebert, Rev. George Derwig and Rev. Edwin Lehman.

In time it was found that the foundation of the church was shifting. A basement fund was started and the church was moved to a new block foundation in July 1964.



Craig Lutheran Church.

Alhambra, Red Deer and Craig made up the Red Deer Parish but now it was decided that Red Deer would have its own pastor. Alhambra and Craig would form a new parish with William Kronen in charge, following completion of his seminary education.

In 1966 Craig congregation purchased a new electronic organ. The next year the church grounds were landscaped and a wrought iron gate erected at the entrance to the cemetery.

The church, though small, has played an important part in the community. According to the church records, 89 Baptisms, 72 Confirmations, 16 Marriages and 19 Funerals have been administered in its name.

CHRIST LUTHERAN LADIES AID

Christ Lutheran Ladies Aid was started in December, 1956, with a membership of sixteen ladies. Pres. - Elsie Pohl; Vice.-Pres. - Lydia Schmidek; Sec. Treas. - Hanna Jobs. The Ladies Aid helps with the work of improving our facilities in the Church for our Service, Library, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Missions. They also contribute to the work of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League and other mission minded projects.

OTHER CHURCH SERVICES and SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the school term in 1924, taught by Linton L. Gaetz, he organized Sunday School Classes held in the school.

From 1930 Anglican services were conducted by Rev. Neville Blunt of Innisfail. When he left, the work was carried on by Rev. Charles Reeve of Innisfail till 1942 when services were abandoned. Intermittent services were held later by Anglican clergymen, Rev. Gerald Howorth and Rev. Phipps of Sylvan Lake.

Apart from services here, and Sunday School, local folk attended Sunday School and church in the Bethel Church.

CRAIG POST OFFICE

Craig Post Office was established August 1, 1905 on NE 2-37-3-W5, the homestead of Ejnar Pederslie, who became the first postmaster. It was closed June 30, 1912.

A.B. Bardal was at a meeting when it was decided to make application to the Canada Post Office



Craig post mark.

Department to have a post office established in the locality. He recalls that those present at the meeting were his brother Paul, Mr. Pederslie, Mr. Ploughmacher, Mert Craig and Fritz Giselman.

Some one suggested the name Craig, being inspired by the fact that Mert Craig, who was late in arriving at the meeting, was seen through the window riding up on his horse. The name met with agreement and so Craig post office received its name as a tribute to Mert Craig, and his brother Jesse, who were homesteaders in the area.

Mail for Craig and New Hill came from Markerville and was carried twice weekly by J.E. Falk.

Later the post office was removed to the home of Julius Wilson on NE 2-37-3-W5 with Mrs. Wilson acting as postmistress. She received a sum of fifty dollars a year. About fifteen families were served by Craig post office.

CRAIG SCHOOL NO. 1793

The site chosen for the school was purchased from Robert Wilson. The name was taken from the Craig Post Office. Louis Opstad built the school for \$714.00; M. H. Chatwood dug the well; Anderson Bros. built the fence; J.H. Kelly got up five cord of wood and Robert Wilson worked up the land and seeded it to grass.

School opened in March 1909 with Miss Minnie Webb as teacher. She received \$55.00 a month salary. The first pupils were from the families of Opstads, Vandaeles, Ed. Kellys and John Kellys.

The first school board members were W.A. Chandler, Cyrille Vandaele and Fred Schmidt.

A new school was built in 1947 and the old school was moved to Dickson to be used as a teacherage.



Second home of Craig Post Office.



Starting out to present a play at Ridgewood — 1929.

CRAIG COMMUNITY CLUB

A meeting was held on Oct. 24, 1958 to purchase the Craig School to be used as a community centre. On Dec. 3rd, 1958, The Craig community signed forms to become an incorporated organization. Officers elected were: Pres. - Stanie Budvarson; Vice-Pres. - Walter Maxson; Sec. Treas. - Tubba (Elizabeth) Maxson. Directors: Herman Schatschneider, Charles Miller, Richard Rutshke, Hilda Matson and Lucille Branson.

The Craig Community Ladies formed their own club in 1967 with Pres. Inga Miller, Vice-Pres. - Elsie Pohl, Sec. - Lucy Budvarson, Treas. Vi Matson. Directors - Hanna Jobs, Lydia Schmidek and Irene Lemke.

Inga Miller wrote our Community Creed: "God help us to be good neighbors. Always ready to lend a hand, Whenever a friend might need us, Let us do whatever we can. Teach us to understand each other. Overcome misunderstandings that appear, because it takes all kinds to make a world and God help us, we're all here. So let us learn a little and serve a little. And at the same time have some fun. So we can go home from our meetings feeling a job has been well done."

The club meets once a month and also holds showers, anniversaries and card parties, etc. to keep in touch with our neighbors.

WILD ROSE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Prior to 1948, there was no ladies organization to bring the ladies together. Occasionally, meeting with ladies in other localities, it was suggested that we form a Womens' Institute. Contact was made with Mrs. T. H. Howse, director of district 3, of Millet who extended an invitation to attend a district conference in Red Deer in March 1948.

On July 21, 1948 at the Craig School, Mrs. T. H. Howes organized the Wild Rose Women's Institute. Mrs. Kirkpatrick was named president, vice-president Mrs. E.C. Schmidt, secretary-treasurer Mrs. A. Budvarson. Directors Mrs. Maxson and Mrs. W. L. Miller. Other ladies joining were Mesdames R.H. Branson, C.W. Glenn, M.P. Maclean, C.G. Miller, W. Steel and E. Darbyshire. The ladies made their choice as to which constituency they would go, Innisfail or Red Deer west, the latter was chosen.

The constituency convenor, Mrs. B. C. Learned of Sylvan Lake, visited us in December and further acquainted us with the adult educational work and the annual conference. Adult education is carried on under Standing Committees such as Health and Welfare, Education, Citizenship in its many phases, handicrafts, social and cultural projects.

Wild Rose has sponsored through the years turkey suppers, bingos, and card parties. On one occasion they sponsored a citizenship program and were highly commended. To this day mention is made in and out of the district of the fine evening program. The branch for several years gave citizenship certificates to Grade XII students at Spruce View. The constituency handicraft memorial trophy has been won at least five times by the branch for highest average

points. The group observed centennial year 1967 by planting two Almey crab trees at the community centre. Several charity organizations have been supported such as Salvation Army and Bethany Homes.

At first there was no equipment or furnishings at the school so lamps, tables, dishes, etc. had to be brought. Through the efforts of the W.I. these things were finally purchased.

A notable fact in which the Institute has had influence is the personal development and better informed membership.



Wild Rose W.I. — L. to R.: Alice Miller, Aurora Steel, Inga Miller, Mrs. Steele, Isabelle Darbyshire, Dorcas Boote, Alice Schmidt, Teddy Maclean, Lucille Branson, Olive Kirkpatrick, Tubba Maxson, Lula Budvarson.

HARRY ANDERSON — FRANK and EDGAR CASTLE

This early history of SE 36-36-3-W5, was told by Bill Anderson in a letter to Hilda Matson in 1967. SE 36 was first homesteaded by a Jack Taylor. All he did was dig a hole on the northside of the quarter and that's where the buildings were when Harry Andersen bought the place. This man had the first chance to have a place of his own but he didn't stay with it. It was tough going and sometimes easier to pick up and leave. A good team of horses was worth more than a quarter of land. C.P.R. land was three dollars and ten cents an acre. There was no market for anything you might have to sell. This quarter went back to the government until Frank Castle filed on it. Mr. Castle built a good house on the creek where Taylor had his house in the bank. After Frank's death, his son Edgar took over the farm. Mrs. Edgar Castle taught school in the area. They had two children.

Joan Castle Joseff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Castle, of Burbank, Cal., is one of North America's top women executives, being not only president of her own corporation in California, which makes precision parts for airplanes and guided missiles, but also designs jewelry for movie stars.

Joan answered the call by Eugene Joseff for a girl helper and she later married her boss. Shortly after their son, Jeff, was born, her husband was killed when their own plane crashed in 1948. In her waiting room of the block long factory is a huge scroll designating her an honorary life membership in the Women of the Motion Picture industry. This was

given for her contribution to the motion picture industry through her creative ability, research and historical accuracy.

Harry Anderson bought the place from Castles when they moved to Oregon, U.S.A. in 1918. Harry was married that spring. They didn't like the old building spot in the north west corner so moved down to the present building spot to be close to the road. It was a long time before any of us got a road. Harry later bought W1/2 of Sec. 31.

Harry sold out in 1929 to Herman Fredrick; and went to California with his wife and three children.

Harry died in 1949 at the age of sixty-two years.

J.H. BOYD

Harvey and Dorothy Boyd and two children, Michael and Melanie, came from Beechy, Saskatchewan. They bought the Vandaele farm and lived there until 1972. They were members of the Bethany Lutheran Church and worked on several committees in support of it. Dorothy was a member of the Centennial committee and also an efficient clerk in the Dickson store. They now live at Salmon Arm, B.C.

THE BRANSON FAMILY

Section 1-37-3-W5 was C.P.R. land and was purchased by Charles S. Whitcomb and his wife, Dixie in 1906.

It is not known what year the Whitcombs left, but several families lived here including Dan Schmideks, Schoolcrafts, and in 1934, John Groeneveld and his wife, Tiny.

March 5, 1935, the Branson clan moved in, having purchased SE1 and rented SW1/4 and NE1/4. These two rented quarters were later purchased also. Although the winter had been quite mild, the roads were very bad due to lots of snow. A week later, a blizzard blocked the roads which were cleared by men shovelling the snow.

The Bransons included father, Raymond; mother, Lucille; and their children, George Kirkham, Loyal, Merle, Ivan, and Audrey. That spring saw the arrival of Charles, then four years later, Earl was born, followed in 1941 by James.

Raymond Branson was born in 1895 in Missouri Valley, Iowa, U.S.A. In 1899, he moved to Oklahoma with his parents, brother, and three sisters. Raymond's father came to Alberta looking for a new location and decided to move to the Red Deer area.

In 1920, Raymond, his father William, and brother, Dwight moved to a farm in the Calder District where they farmed until 1935.

Raymond and Lucille (nee Guard) Kirkham were married in Innisfail. Lucille was born at Friday Harbour, Washington, USA, in 1900. She moved to Innisfail in 1910.

Earl and James attended the Red Deer Composite High School for their grade twelve as it had been discontinued at Dickson. The bus was never closer than two miles while they attended Dickson. Sometimes they walked, or pedalled bikes or rode horseback. The horses were tied to a bush unless it was too cold, then they were turned loose to come

home. Occasionally, the children were taken by car if the bus didn't arrive. One day when the bus did not arrive, Audrey who had not missed a day of school, was determined to keep her perfect attendance. She walked all the way to Dickson in 60° below weather.

Loyal, Merle, Ivan, Charles, and Earl each completed two years at S.A.I.T. Audrey took R.N. training and Jim attended the University of Alberta.

George married Florence Lemke and farmed in the New Hill district for several years. They now live in Calgary with their two sons, Brian and Douglas. George works in Northern Canada.

Loyal worked for the C.P.R. for several years, and is now employed by Lenkurt Electric Co. In 21 years of employment, Loyal has only missed one working day. Loyal and Ann with their five children live in Burnaby, B.C.

Merle farmed E23-36, which he still owns, before moving to California. There Merle worked as a machinist for five years. Merle and Jean make their home in Surrey, B.C.

Ivan was also employed by C.P.R. before taking a job with Canadian Aeronautics. He then moved to California to work for Fairchild Electric for 10 years. Ivan and wife, Ina, and two daughters, Jo-Anne and Patricia returned to Canada and are now living in Vancouver.

Audrey worked in a bank at Devon and a store at Gilby before entering her training at the Royal Alexandra in Edmonton. Several years were spent at Lac La Biche, Alberta as a Public Health Nurse, then six years nursing in California. Audrey is now living in Calgary.

Charles farmed for several years before operating a restaurant and working in an elevator. He is now employed by an Oil Well Service Co. Chuck resides with his wife, Iris, and family at Bassano, Alberta.

For seven years, Earl was employed by Alberta Government Telephones in Calgary. Earl married Della Palmer and in 1966 they moved to the home farm where they are now living with their three daughters, Tanya, Cara, and Lois.

James lives in Calgary with wife, Joan and two daughters, Janice and Jill. Before being employed in Calgary, Jim attended University in Edmonton and obtained his Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Ray and Lucille moved to Innisfail in 1967 where they still live an active life.

ARNGRIMUR BUDVARSON

The north-west quarter of Sec. 2-37-3-W5 was homesteaded by Julius Wilson who in 1919, sold to Tom Mackay of Okotoks. Burns MacKenzie bought the farm and rented the fields while he taught the Craig School.

In the spring of 1923 Gream (Arngrimur) Budvarson purchased the farm. He had homesteaded in 1913 in the New Hill district. That land he sold to J.A. Lecerf in 1930. In 1928 Gream purchased SW11-37-3-W5, which was raw land adjoining the home quarter on the north. The land was cleared the hard way, by axe and horse drawn brush cutter.

Piling the brush was done by hand. Mrs. Budvarson recalls many anxious times when a six or eight horse outfit would come home on the run with no sign of a driver. Very often newly broken young colts would be included in the team causing run-aways. She also recalls in her first years of married life, spending many long days alone while her husband hauled grain in a wagon or sleigh to Benalto; it was an all-day trip from early morning till early evening.



Gream Budvarson harrowing.

Mr. Budvarson was born in Iceland and emigrated to Canada with the family when he was 10 years old in 1905. Following school he assisted his parents on the farm until going overseas in the First World War.

In December 1925 he married Lula May Greaves of Lloydminster, Sask., who taught the New Hill School. She was born in Daisley, Ontario, coming west to Regina in 1917, then to Lloydminster.

Of several interests their chief one was the community. Both of them are members of the F.U.A., both served in the interests of the local school, Mr. Budvarson having served the third longest in years of any trustee in the district and Mrs. Budvarson as secretary. Mrs. Budvarson is a charter member of the Wild Rose Women's Institute and, since its organization in 1948, has had a record attendance. She has held offices both at branch and constituency level; held offices in the Spruce View Home and School Association; is a member of the Loyal Orange Benevolent Association; is the president of the Innisfail Photo Club; member of the Alberta Natural History Society; member of the Board of Managers of the Presbyterian Church, Innisfail; an associate member of the Red Deer Archives.

Mr. Budvarson is a confirmed member of the Icelandic Lutheran church, Markerville. Mrs. Budvarson has served the church locally for nearly 25 years as organist. She served the district as district correspondent for about 19 years for the Red Deer Advocate and the Sylvan Lake News.

Both are interested in gardening and Mrs. Budvarson is a consistent winner at the Spruce View flower show and in 1971 was the grand aggregate winner.



Threshing at G. Budvarsons.

Two sons were born to the Budvarsons, Lionel, whose wife and family of four live in Swift Current, Sask., while he is employed as a cementing engineer in oil well servicing. Lately his work has been mainly in the North West Territories. Ronald died in 1959 and had two children, who live in Red Deer. He was buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Mr. Budvarson, because of ill health, was forced to give up farming in 1960 and, since then, rents out the farm. Of late years, the couple spend their winters in Red Deer.

To add some spice to this history, a story is told relating to this farmstead during Mr. MacKenzie's occupancy. Mr. MacKenzie slept in the north bedroom and during his absence one evening some bullet holes appeared in one of the windows, at least they resembled bullet holes. It is assumed that someone who was angry with Mr. MacKenzie, was responsible for putting them there. They are still visible to this day.

Because of sugar rationing during World War II some families in the district went into the honey industry. One of these was Carl Lemke who found the bees very unfriendly. He found he needed a queen bee and, having heard of a swarm in the walls of the A. Budvarson house, he decided to get one there. He enlisted the help of Herman Schatschneider and, after cutting a hole in the wall, they managed to get a queen bee.

Mrs. Lula Budvarson passed away in 1973.

S.H. (STANIE) BUDVARSON

In 1905, Stanie, aged five years, came from Iceland with his parents and settled in the Pine Hill district, east of Markerville. In 1909 the family homesteaded in the New Hill district. Times were very hard but no one seemed to go hungry. Rabbits and partridge were plentiful and the homesteaders depended on them for meat.

Stanie left school at an early age to go out to work.

Range fires were bad in the early days. Often neighbors worked together to save homes and feed.

In 1926 Stanie bought SE3-37-3-W5 in the Craig district from the late Jim Hopkins, who lived in Markerville and Innisfail after leaving here. When he bought the land, there were only thirty-five acres broken. The rest he cleared and broke with his faith-

ful Clydesdale horses. He then bought and cleared NW3-37-3-W5.

Roads were built with horses and whoever could, helped build them and thus paid off their taxes. Grain was hauled to Benalto with horses. Stanie served on the Craig School board for many years.

In the hungry thirties, oats sold for eight cents a bushel and wheat twenty-three and a half cents a bushel. Two year old steers sold for twenty dollars, pigs for one and a half cents a pound.

In the summer the young folk amused themselves with ball games and a little stampeding at Henry Rowles. In the winter they went to school house dances.

Stanie got into good Hereford cattle using the brand his father had used. His horse brand he shared with his brother Gream.

In 1943 Stanie married Lucy Brown, and they have three sons Kenneth, William, and Barry. Ken farms with his Dad. He married Gwen Fleishman of Raven and they have two sons. Bill is a grain buyer for the Alberta Wheat Pool. Barry married Beverly Craig of Happy Hill and lives in Calgary. His trade is sheet metal. They have two sons.

G.E. CARTER

As a young man of 19 years, G.E. Carter, living in Lincoln, England heeded the call of the country after seeing films of Canada. In 1902 he arrived at Indian Head, Saskatchewan where he worked at the experimental station. He later took employment with the CPR as fireman, and was located at Broadview Sask. In 1911 he returned to England to be married. Both his wife and he returned to Broadview, and in March 1912 their first child was born, a son named Eric. World War I broke so he returned to England to serve in the Royal Field Artillery. Following the war he was fireman on a railway in England. Their second son, Neville, was born in 1917 and the third one, Geoffrey, in 1921.

Following the war, conditions in England were not satisfactory, so the family came out in 1926 to the Craig district. Winter was breaking up at this time and roads were not gravelled. Driving out from Innisfail the children were attracted to the gophers. Neville said "I hope we have some of them at the farm." Mrs. Carter had never been on a farm and conditions at this time didn't favorably impress her. On arrival she wouldn't unpack their baggage. They were taken, then, to a farm at Lacombe but preferred the Craig farm and returned to it. Here they became engaged in mixed farming. Eric began high school at Innisfail and, at age 16, was accepted in the Bank of Commerce at Ponoka. He served in several branches in Canada, and 10 years in Trinidad. He retired in 1972 while serving as manager of a Toronto bank. Neville, now called Ed, became subdivision officer in the Inspection Service branch of the Attorney General's department, Government of Alberta and resides in Calgary. Geoff is a security man with Hudson's Bay, Vancouver after being pensioned from the Air Force. The two younger boys served a number of

years with the R.C.M.P. All boys are married with families.

The family took an active part in community affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Carter were active in the Anglican church, and the U.F.A.; both served on the local school board and Mrs. Carter was a member of the Bethel Ladies Aid.

In 1946 the Carters sold out and moved to Sylvan Lake, later moving to Cloverdale B.C. Mr. Carter died there in 1957 at the age of 74 years and was buried in the Field of Honor, Cloverdale. Mrs. Carter is now a resident of the Sylvan Lake Senior Citizen's Lodge.

CHANDLER FAMILY by A.W. Chandler

My father William Aaron Chandler was born October 7, 1877 in Bradford Yorkshire, England. My mother, the former Elizabeth Howarth, was born on November 20, 1878 in Worsley, Lancashire, England. Both emigrated to Canada with their parents in 1883.

They were married in the Anglican Church at Lancaster, Ontario in 1902.

During the period from 1890 to 1905 a large number of people moved into this part of the country to obtain homesteads. The country had recently been opened up for settlement by a land survey and the completion of the C.P.R. line between Calgary and Edmonton in 1891, was also a major development.

Among those who settled in the vicinity west of Penhold, was the family of Mr. Alfred Bourne from Ontario, where they had lived for a number of years in the same neighborhood as my father. When Mr. Bourne and his family moved to "the West" (as the North West Territories was generally referred to) my father carried on a correspondence with them and so became interested in the country.

In the month of August 1903, my father came to the Penhold district with a desire to locate a suitable homestead on which to farm. Information and maps were obtained from the Dominion Land Office, Red Deer, as to what homesteads were available, and it was then necessary to ride over the country on horseback to inspect the land and decide which, if any farm in the area, would be suitable to him.

During the summer of 1903 the rain fall in this district had been very heavy and there was much difficulty in travelling around and all creeks and rivers were very high. After looking over the district for some time my father finally filed a claim on a homestead situated about three miles east of Pine Lake. Having decided on a location, he then obtained employment for a few months at a brick yard in Red Deer.

During the winter of 1903-04 my father was employed at a saw mill in the country west of here and in the spring of 1904 he again looked over the homesteads that were available, especially in this district, as timber could be obtained much easier here for building than at Pine Lake. It was also learned that the Pine Lake area was sometimes very short of rain fall. My father finally decided to release his claim on the farm at Pine Lake and to homestead our

present farm in this district, NW36-36-3-W5.

In 1904, my mother came from Ontario and my father and mother lived for a year on the farm of Mr. Richard Bourne. Mr. Bourne obtained employment with a land survey party and my father tended to the cultivated acreage of his farm; and also worked at intervals on his own farm here, in preparation for residence the following spring.

In the year 1905, the area known as the North West Territories was divided up and this portion became the Province of Alberta.

The Craig Post Office had also been in operation for a year or so at this time, and later the surrounding district became known as the Craig School District.

Mr. Richard Yorke travelled through the country and conducted religious services at several points as a lay-reader of the Church of England. He conducted service at the Craig school on certain Sunday afternoons during the summer of 1909.

On the farm, considerable time was spent in clearing land and putting it under cultivation, building fences and constructing new sheds and barns. At first, most buildings were made of spruce logs but some poplar logs were also used.

During the first years of settlement, several farmers obtained extra employment in the winter by hauling logs, lumber and other timber used for building and fencing, to other settlers who were moving in and wished to start building immediately. A considerable amount of lumber was also hauled to the lumber yards in Innisfail from saw mills which were operating every winter in timber west of here.

The raising of dual purpose cattle for the production of both beef and cream was one of the chief sources of income, and hog raising also increased as more grain became available. Much of the territory in the district had no local resident and was therefore still in a wild state. As there was always plenty of water available from natural sources, many local farmers used this land as open range to pasture their cattle and also some horses during the summer.

As the abundant growth of native grasses far exceeded the needs of animals for pasture, it produced a very dangerous situation every spring in the number and size of the prairie fires which swept through the country, often causing considerable damage. Sometimes the fires burned along slowly for weeks and could be seen many miles away, especially at night. At other times, when the weather was very dry, a high wind could sweep the fire across the country in a very short time. Therefore it was necessary to keep a good strip of plowed land (which was cultivated sufficiently to prevent all growth) around the farm buildings at all times. All feed supplies on hand in the spring and autumn had to be protected in the same way.

In June 1915 my father purchased the adjoining farm of 160 acres to the east, from Mr. George W. Burns who had homesteaded on the land several years before and then moved away.

The three hundred and twenty acres remained the

total acreage which my father owned but at times extra land was leased for hay.

My father passed away in 1940 and my mother in 1955. Both were laid to rest in the Red Deer cemetery.

Their family consisted of two sons - Arthur W. born in Red Deer in 1905, and Charles A. born in Red Deer in 1910. We carried on with the farm until 1965, when we sold to Eldo Flake. We bought a small acreage near Evarts where we now reside.

GEORGE CHAPLIN

George Chaplin was born in Essex, England and sailed for Canada in 1913. When war broke out, he enlisted in the Canadian Army. He served four years in France with the 8th Canadian division, was wounded and gassed at Vimy Ridge, then honorably discharged as unfit for service.

In 1919 he married Muriel DeAith in Calgary. She too was born in England, at Weedon, Northamptonshire.

They purchased land from Henry Dykes in the Craig district SE6-37-2-W5 and NE31-36-2-W5 and lived there for twenty years. In 1939 they sold the farm and bought a small acreage at Surrey B.C. The half section at Craig is now owned by Harry Ramsay.

Mr. and Mrs. Chaplin had a family of four - Grace, Doris, Victor, and Joyce, all born at Craig and all now residing in and around Surrey B.C. There are fifteen grandchildren and one great grandson.

Mr. Chaplin died in 1962.

THOMAS CHATWOOD

Thomas H. Chatwood and wife, daughter Pearl, sons, John and Earl, and Charlie Fixler, decided to look for greener pastures and left Billings, Montana in 1903. On the loads of two covered wagons were beds, trunks, household effects and hens. The outfit included a chuck wagon. They had 17 head of cattle including cows, a dog and six head of horses. Eggs were gathered and butter churned on the way. They arrived in Innisfail during September 1903, and, as they had to stop for winter, thought the Innisfail country looked good. They rented a place in Antler Hill from a veterinarian, Dr. Crawford. Mr. Chatwood filed on a homestead in the Craig district without seeing the land. In the spring the family moved out to it. A new house was built from logs taken from Fred Brown's farm now owned by Charles Kovach. A garden was raised from ground ploughed with a walking plough. That fall rhubarb was eaten from the seeds planted in spring. Members of the family went chicken hunting.

During the first winter son, John, tangled with Tom Lauder and they fought 17 times during winter and summer. An amusing story was told by John of when he went fencing with Edgar Castle on the latter's homestead, SE34. The men were using a wagon gear with poles on it. Suddenly John missed Edgar and looking around saw him in mid-air upside down. A tree had caught a pole on the wagon and hoisted him in the air. Edgar didn't do any more fencing.

John Chatwood could be labelled a district character. He contributed much more to the community

than he did to himself. He was talented, a jack-of-all-trades and thorough in his work. He could call square dances, play the mouth organ, and step dance, all of which was appreciated in those early days. He was a talented wood-carver and took part in stampedes. He, with his brother Marvin, were given recognition at a Benalto stampede in 1957 having participated in the first Benalto stampede in 1917. John passed away suddenly in July 1960, and was buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

Pearl Chatwood married Chet Keillor and died some years later and is buried in the Dickson Cemetery.

Marvin Chatwood homesteaded NE4-37-3-W5 which he sold to Percy G. Scott, a veteran of World War I, in 1920. He with his family, then moved to the Bingley district. He died in 1957 and is buried in the Rocky Mountain House Cemetery. Mrs. Ron (Ellen) Spears of Bentley is a daughter.

R. CROSS

The NE10-37-3-5 had been owned by R. Bridson and later by Mrs. A.W. Jarvis. In 1921 Mrs. R. (Dolly) Cross bought the quarter following her marriage. Mrs. Cross was a daughter of George Spurgeon who lived three miles south of Markerville where she was born and raised. Mrs. Cross did a great deal of riding in her girlhood days, consequently knew the country well. They lived intermittently on the farm while living in Calgary.

In 1935 they sold the land to Charles Lechelt and moved back to her father's farm. In 1945 Mr. and Mrs. Cross and family moved to Wabamun where they still reside. Five children were born — Ruth, Dan, Dick, Wade and Ron, all living at Wabamun, except Dan, who is in the U.S.

Mrs. Cross, now known as Janice, has fond memories of the old Evarts store with its big rounds of cheese, a crooked floor and other old fashioned supplies.

Her father built a log cabin in 1898 on his homestead. A few years ago the Cross' tore it down, marking all logs, and had it reconstructed on Wade's farm at Wabamun. The spruce logs were well preserved.

JOHN DIETZ

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dietz and son, John, homesteaded in the New Hill district. They sold the land and John bought the east half of sec. 11 in the Craig district in 1921. He built a log house on the SE quarter. This land was reputed to be the best quarter in the district and John was considered to be a good farmer. While living in the district he took an interest in school affairs and served as trustee and chairman on the school board from 1926 to 1929. In 1929 he sold his land to A.J. Lechelt and moved to California where he married. As a young man he served several years in the American navy and, during that time, he did some boxing.

BYRON R. DRAPER

Byron Draper was born in Missouri. He had been college educated and wanted to see more of the

world. He joined the Ringland Brothers Circus as a laborer. His job was rolling tents and carrying stakes and ropes.

There were many advertisements about Canada requesting farm help. A son of a friend of his had obtained land near Provost so Mr. Draper came out to him. He worked around for several farmers helping with seeding and harvesting.

Oliver Smith at Provost, brother of Sam and Donald Smith at Evarts, took a box car of horses to Rocky Mountain House to be used in the logging industry. Draper came out with Oliver and later worked at the Smith Brothers ranch. While there he met Ed Moreau who had a farm in Craig, NE 2-37-3-5. Mr. Draper bought the land in 1918 and went into the dairying business milking 20 cows by hand. He sold the cream to Markerville creamery. Some of the cows he purchased from Jack Murdock and John Bergstrom.

The Soldier Settlement Board made an offer for the land so he decided to sell. The land was purchased by P.G. Scott, a returned man from World War I.

Mr. Draper remembers buying a democrat at Julius Wilson's sale; he remembers Bob Wilson did hay baling in the neighborhood with a horse powered baler. Mr. Wilson did a great deal of breaking of land because he had so many horses.

After selling out Mr. Draper spent some time as a laborer in the Donalds district then he saw an "ad" in the paper advertising a farm for sale south of Condor. Joe Buresh of Evergreen was a real estate agent and through him he bought the farm in 1921 where he still lives.

Mr. Draper was a champion golfer.

HERMAN FREDRICK

Herman Fredrick came to the Craig area in March 1930 with a group of German settlers who also took up land.

Herman was born in Lublin, Poland on January 19, 1882 and came to Canada in June 1913. He worked in the coal mines at Nordegg for a number of years, before taking a farm in the Nisku area, near Edmonton. From there he moved to Craig when he bought SE 36-36-3-W5 from Harry Anderson. He now owns three quarters of land and has built up a fine home and farm with the help of Eric and Hilda Matson.

Herman needed help with the farm and being a bachelor he also needed some one to do the cooking, so he hired Hilda and Eric, newlyweds, in 1942. They and Herman still share the same home, though Herman has been retired for several years, and has rented his farm to Eric.

Over the years Herman has made many friends and is especially fond of young people some of whom he has helped on several occasions.

THE GLENN FAMILY by Irene Becker

In 1908, SE10-37-33-W5th was homesteaded by James K. Wilson and is the first record of the land now owned by Wilfred Glenn.

Mr. Wilson moved to Edmonton and in 1913 sold his homestead to Mr. W.I. Payne and Mr. Conover of

Edmonton. In 1915, Mr. Payne bought Mr. Conover's interest. Frank and Loretta Bowers of Los Angeles, California bought the land from Payne in 1919. Ownership of the same land was transferred to Mr. A.E. Hall in 1920. Two years later the land was again sold to Albert H.W. Glenn and his wife Ada of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Albert was a carpenter by trade and many of the buildings in the area at that time were built by him. The Weicker Hotel in Innisfail and the original Innisfail Hospital were constructed by Stark and Smith Construction Co. of which Mr. Glenn was foreman. He earned money in this way to start a new life for himself and his family who were still in Halifax waiting for his return to bring them out west.

Mrs. Glenn and the four boys were in Halifax at the time of the historic explosion in December of 1917. Many lives were lost in this disaster but this family was fortunate and escaped without injury. Mr. Glenn, fearing his family lost forever, returned to Halifax to find them safe and well, credit all due, I am sure, to the hand of God.

The family, with the exception of Herbert, came out west to Calgary by train where Mrs. Glenn remained until a suitable dwelling could be erected.

Herbert, the eldest, went to Pontiac, Michigan where he was successful in the field of mechanics and in the operation of his own garage business. He has retired but still has a small garage where he repairs lawn mowers. In 1954 he married Helen Patrick of Pontiac who is a teacher of music.

Wilfred, Edward and Logan returned to the farm with their father. An unforgettable experience for these unsuspecting youths was the trip from Calgary to the farm by horseback, a way of travel very reliable in those early days. I imagine the pain of saddle sores and stiff muscles was not quickly forgotten.

Upon their arrival they pitched a tent in the southeast corner of the quarter. They lived there while they built the first house. Nearby neighbors were amused to see "Indians" camped on the land next to theirs and were rather surprised to learn the would be Indians turned out to be a family of Scotsmen.

The land was still rugged bush in the truest sense, which had to be cleared in order to grow crops on it. To clear land it took many weeks and months of cutting, grubbing and root picking with one's own hands, and a good team of horses to do the hauling. Under the rugged bush a very rich, fertile soil awaited the planting of crops.

Mrs. Glenn was a member of the Salvation Army. She served faithfully most of her life, the later part in the capacity of Lieutenant. Both Mr. and Mrs. Glenn were members of the Salvation Army band. Mrs. Glenn mastered the playing of several instruments, her favorites being the piano, harp, and guitar. She joined her family on the farm in 1918.

Edward stayed on the farm until 1936 at which time he went to Calgary to live. He married Irene Fox in 1938. He served in the Canadian Army from September 1942 until April 1944, when he was

honorably discharged due to an injury. Edward, better known as Ned, earned his living as a paper hanger and painter. He operated his own business in Calgary, for many years. Ned and Irene were blessed with three children, Donna, Bill, and Jim.

Logan, the youngest of Albert and Ada's boys was an ardent "bronc buster" and had an insatiate desire to bust the wild ones. He rode in several stampedes including the world famous Calgary Stampede. Logan was blessed with a natural talent bestowed upon a choice few. Although his paintings are not famous in the art world, they are priceless treasures to his family and friends. His sincere appreciation for beauty is certainly revealed in his few paintings. He was called to the army in 1940 and served in the ranks of The Royal Canadian Engineers. Rumor had it his unit was to be sent overseas without leave. He was A.W.O.L. in 1943 at which time he came home to see his family and friends for the last time. He was called for overseas duty and was fatally wounded in the Dieppe raid. He was laid to rest on foreign soil at Caen, France.

Wilfred married Madeline Steel in 1928. Her father, Wesley Steel, farmed the land to the west of Glenn's. Wilfred, who stayed on the farm since his arrival to Alberta inherited the land from his parents. Many enjoy his musical talent very skillfully displayed on the piano. He contributed his talent to the original Cave orchestra, and played for many dances throughout the country.

Three sons and two daughters were born to Madeline and Wilfred. Charles, better known as Bud, married Margaret Hjalmsen of New Hill and they have four sons. He lives in Ontario and is in the building industry.

Herbert is tool-push for Nabor Drilling Co. He married Helen Holappa of Kuusamo and lives in Calgary. They have four children.

Irene supervised a correspondence school at Dovercourt for one term. She married Kenneth Becker and they have three children. They live on an acreage near Innisfail.

Lloyd, better known as Bill, is married and has five children. Lloyd is employed by Alberta Gas Trunk Line.

Marie married Larry Johnson. They have two children and live at Cynthia, Alberta.

Our life on this land has been a happy one in spite of the hard work and many disappointments. Times were hard financially, but I can never remember being hungry. I can never remember being cold either, except perhaps on the inevitable trip to the back house in the midst of winter. Only those who remember the little shanty in the back yard, will remember how it was to lower oneself in the proper position to answer mother nature's call. My childhood memories are of happy times learning to skate on the skating rinks made by our parents, and of eating my mothers delicious home-made ice-cream. Most certainly, a cherished memory is of Christmas, when even in those hard times there were gifts for all of us, and an enjoyable sleigh ride to

Grandma Steel's for a Christmas dinner fit for a king. Always there was a lively sing song with our father at his piano playing Christmas carols. Wearing the clothes my mother made on an old treadle sewing machine was an extra special treat, never forgotten. Happy memories are of a time when I sat on my father's knee and very carefully told him the house was on fire and feeling very confident that he, in all his wisdom could no doubt extinguish it with a flourish of his hand.

To our parents and grandparents, I can truthfully say, you were brave and courageous to undertake the pioneering of this country. Thank-you for a most happy, enjoyable life on the SE10-37-33-W5th.

F. HAUPT

Because of conditions in Central Europe following World War I, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Haupt with their family decided to emigrate to Canada, arriving at Nisku in 1927. They had lived in the same area in Poland as the Schatschneider and Lemke families — Mrs. Haupt being a sister of Carl and Fred Lemke.

In Nov. 1929 a group of seven, including Mr. Haupt, drove to the Craig district where land was selected and purchased. He chose S.W. 33 - 36 - 3 - W5 but, until a house could be built, the Haupt family lived in a house across the road from the Craig school. The children at that time were Gerard, Herman and Urna. Born later were Frieda, Ella, Carl, Hedvig, Elmer, Walter and George. The family experienced a tragedy in 1938 when Hedvig, seven years old, was accidentally shot. In 1944, Mrs. Haupt passed away suddenly leaving George, a baby less than a year old.

Mr. Haupt, in 1949 married a widow, Antonia Mier, and they live in Calgary. She had one son, Carl, who is married and lives on the Sveinbjornson farm. Gerard, a plasterer and Herman live in Calgary; Carl, a plumber, lives at Strachan; Urna (Mrs. Ed. Mantei) resides west of Wetaskiwin, Frieda married Herb Branson and lives east of Innisfail; Ella, (Mrs. Knipfel) operates a restaurant in Drumheller; Elmer and Walter live in the New Hill district; George lives in Coleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Haupt, while on the farm, attended the Craig Lutheran Church regularly and he served as an elder for a number of years.

HOLBROOK - MACLEAN submitted by Edwina Maclean

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Holbrook and three children, Jean, Edwina and son Kelly came from the Bitterroot Valley in Montana, April, 1911 to Chauvin, Alberta where they farmed and ranched ten miles north in the Prosperity District. When in 1922 their farm home burned, they went to Oregon, staying until 1929 when they came back to Alberta.

They settled on Sec. 35-36-3-W5, seven miles west of Markerville in the Craig district. Edwina and her husband Jack Whidden, and son Dick went to Flin Flon, Manitoba where they started a fur farm in 1930. Jean had stayed in Washington where she was secretary to a lawyer.

On Sec. 35 there were thirty acres broken, the rest mostly in trees. Fred Isaacson of Eckville said, in 1902 he had a sawmill on the south west corner of the section and Holbrooks saw where the saw dust pile was. Vandaeles said that when they started school at Craig they had to swim their horses across the creek which flowed through Sec. 35.

In 1932 the section was bought from Dan Fry of North Dakota for six dollars an acre plus 18% exchange on Canadian money. It was owned jointly by Fred Holbrook and Edwina Whidden.

Edwina (Teddy) and her two small sons came to live there in 1937, after the death of her husband and the closing of the fur farm, which she ran for four years after his death. She brought a car load of settlers effects among which were mink and a trained team of husky dogs. Dick Whidden had been planning to race them in the Junior Dog Derby in Flin Flon, but the race wasn't run when he had to leave. They also brought his Alaskan sled and harness.

In 1938 Edwina started farming the east half and purchased the first rubber tired tractor in the district. In May 1938, John Paul Whidden died with pneumonia at age six. In 1940 Edwina married Mickey Maclean who was in the Royal Canadian Navy. They rented the farm to Chandler Bros. Royal Raymond lived on the place and fed the stock until the fall of 1942 when Macleans returned. They lived there until March 1960 when Ben Hoskin bought the east half section.

In 1945 Macleans purchased the west half of Sec. 35 from Fred Holbrook for \$12,000.

Dick Whidden joined the U.S. Army in 1944 and was badly wounded in the battle on Okinawa. After getting out of the hospital, he joined his regiment in Korea where he contracted malaria. He returned home in 1946, and attended the University of Washington at Seattle, receiving his degree in mining engineering. He married Gwen Pready, his high school sweetheart from Victoria. They have three children and live in San Diego, California, where Dick is a corrosion and chemical engineer for Loughheed Aircraft Corp.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Holbrook left the farm in 1943 and he worked in the shipyards in Portland during the war.

Kelly Holbrook joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 and served till the end of the war. He married Madeline Wickware of Sylvan Lake and lives in Portland, Oregon where he owns and operates a Nursing Home. They have a son Patrick in the U.S. Marines, and a daughter Gail.

Fred and Kelly Holbrook, and Mickey Maclean belong to the Masonic Lodge; Mr. and Mrs. Holbrook and Edwina to the Order of the Eastern Star. Fred Holbrook joined the U.F.A. movement when it was first formed. Mickey and Edwina Maclean are members of the F.U.A.

Edwina remembers:

"In 1942 we had a very early snowstorm. The snow didn't go off and none of our crop was threshed. It was very hard to feed the cattle so Mrs. Chandler and her sons opened their fence to our cattle and let them

run to a straw pile. They wouldn't take any compensation for this wonderful act that saved our little herd from starvation.

After one very bad blizzard we lost a cow. After four days of searching, Mickey was again out on snowshoes, when he saw the dog run over to a little hole in the snow where a faint steam was rising. It was our cow buried under eight feet of snow. We dug her out and took the horse and stoneboat to pull her home. The snow around her was caked like ice, but with much urging and pushing she stumbled out and finally walked home. We fed her warm mash for quite awhile and she made it through the winter, had her calf and raised it.

In 1930 Mrs. Warren (Blanche) Miller set a hen and when she hatched, Mrs. Miller took her and the chicks to my mother as a gift. It was such a kind and thoughtful thing to do and all the garden vegetables she supplemented her gift with, will long be remembered."

Fred Holbrook died in Portland in 1953 in his eightieth year; Mrs. Holbrook died in 1970 in her ninety-seventh year.

Macleans make their home at Sylvan Lake.



Art Steel ploughing on Bob Wilson farm — 1924. 12 horses.

JAMES HOPKINS

Mr. and Mrs. James Hopkins came from Lousana in 1921. Mrs. Hopkins (formerly Griffith) had been in the hotel business at Lousana. The family then, was Iola, Lee and the twins, Bessie and Jessie Griffith. They brought with them stock and equipment and settled on SE3-37-3-5.

In 1922 a son, James, was born who now is a business man in Innisfail. In 1924 the family moved to the hamlet of Markerville.

B. HOSKIN

The Hoskin family moved to the Craig district in 1960 when they bought E 35 - 36 - 3 - W5 from Mr. and Mrs. M. MacLean.

Ben grew up in the Willowdale district, east of Red Deer, where his grandparents had homesteaded in 1892. He served with the Air force during World War II, then farmed near Red Deer.

He married Vivian Kirkpatrick of Red Deer, who was working as a laboratory technician at the Red Deer Hospital.

They have three sons, Bill, John, and Donald who are active members of the local Horse Clubs, and

with their horses, take part in local parades, winning their share of the prizes.

Vivian is a member of the Royal Purple No.233 Benalto.

THE JOBS FAMILY HISTORY

Emma Wilhelmina Schumann (Jobs) was born in East Prussia. She came to Canada in 1902, at the age of thirteen, accompanied by her grandmother, two younger sisters and one brother.

Their first impressions were none too favourable, as they arrived in Wetaskiwin in November on precisely the same day that old man winter decided to open his door with the first blast of icy fury, a typical western blizzard. They were met by their uncle, who took them to his home by horse and wagon. By the time they had travelled the fourteen miles to his home there were already two feet of snow on the ground. It was exactly six weeks since they had started from their home land, and so the end of the journey was a welcome relief.

In 1906, Emma married Gottlieb Jobs, a widower with one son.

Gottlieb had arrived from Poland in 1900 and had settled in the BrightView district. They later moved to the Blackmud district, east of Leduc.

Gottlieb and Emma had five children, Herbert, Ludwig, Edmund, Susanna, and Reinhold.

After a lengthy illness, Gottlieb passed away in July 1922 and for Emma the long struggle of being the sole provider for her young family began, with the oldest only fourteen and the youngest almost four years. With hard work and determination she carried on in real pioneer tradition, with her trust in a mighty God who forsakes you not, her only strength and solace at the end of many a weary day. These young boys learned to shoulder responsibilities at an early age, and soon took their places as men in a grown up world.

Looking to the future with several growing boys, there soon came the desire for more land. At about this time there was a great influx of settlers moving into the Craig district west of Markerville, among them A. J. Lechelt, Carl Lemke, W. Phisterer, and Dan Schmidek.

In 1929, Herbert purchased the S. W. 22-37-3-5- in the Happy Hill district and Emma Jobs purchased from the CPR E1/2 36-3-5. In the spring of 1930 Herbert moved here, with Edmund and Ludwig taking turns staying with him.

They used Walter Maxon's threshers' bunk house until they were able to erect a granary to live in. Although the land was mostly bush, they were able to clear and put 63 acres in crop in 1930. Herbert had 20 acres.

In 1931 the remainder of the family moved down, lock, stock and barrel. Most of the machinery and horses were shipped by train, with the cattle being hauled by a local trucker.

In 1930 they purchased their first tractor, a 1530 International, which in the following years broke well over 1500 acres of land. It was probably the ad-

mirable performance of this tractor that forever imbedded in the minds of its owners the remarkable quality of an International tractor, for in all the ensuing years there has always been at least one or two on the farm.

In 1931 the job of building a house began, and with no money for hired labor, most work was done on an exchange basis. Logs for square timber were sawed by Herman Schatschneider and Leo Schmidek with a whip saw. In exchange the Jobs' family would do some land breaking with their tractor.

It must have been at this time when Herman proved himself to be an honest diligent young man, for he later won the heart and hand of Susanna, and they were married in 1940.

Although the new home was very primitive by todays standards, they were just as proud and eager to move in as we are in our modern structures of today. As soon as one corner of the shiplap was nailed on the ceiling joists, beds were moved in upstairs, though you had to climb a ladder, then walk over the uncovered joists, before you got to the corner that was finished. Many were the nights Reinhold, sleep walking, would maneuver the intricate footwork to get downstairs for a drink of water, then back up again completely unaware of his night wanderings.

This home served as the family home with an addition added in 1944 which even included a well with a hand pump in the back porch.

Although money was a major problem, by thrift and good management they managed to expand their farm operation.

Hampered for many years by the lack of sufficient water many were the times that the entire herd had to be herded to a neighbors farm. Fred Holbrooks, one and one half miles away to be watered once a day.

There was always eight to fourteen milking cows which supplied the cream cheques for fuel to break more land.

Picking roots was a never ending occupation in which the whole family participated.

Although everyone worked hard and long hours, there was time for neighbourly fellowship unequalled in today's society. One thought nothing of hitching up the team of horses to the sleigh on a winters' evening and driving seven or eight miles for a friendly visit or a game of cards. This would always include the whole family, from the youngest to the oldest.

At least once or twice each winter you would be invited to a "feather party" at some neighbours' home. Everyone would sit around long tables and the hostess would bring out her years supply of duck and goose feathers. You had to pick out the large and sharp pointed feathers, stripping them and discarding the hard centres. Many and varied were the stories that were told before the evening was over. After a hearty lunch you went home, picking goose down out of your hair and clothes for days after. The feathers were then made into pillows and feather beds, very often for a daughter who was about to be married.



First home of the Jobs — 1930.

Much social life centred around the little Lutheran congregation of which Emma Jobs was a charter member. Church services were first held in homes. Everyone stayed for dinner and in the afternoon the younger generation played ball.

In 1937 Herbert married Anna Schmidek, and their children are George, Arthur and Irene. In 1953 Herbert sold his farm and moved to the Eckville district.

In 1935 Edmund bought S E 4-37-3-5. At one time this was the homestead of the late T.O. (Ted) Thompson. In 1938 Edmund married Esther Plitt of Leduc. They lived in the Leduc area for several years then moved back here in 1941.

Edmund traded land with Ludwig, who had purchased S E 16-37-3-5 from Arthur Holmgren in 1937. Three sons carry on the family name: Clarence, living in Calgary; Irvin living on N W 33-36-3-5, which used to be a CPR quarter then owned by Richard Matson who sold it to Reinhold and Ludwig; and Rubin who now lives on the home quarter. Edmund retired in 1971 and is living in Rocky Mountain House.

Reinhold retained the family farm, also purchasing N W 4-37-3-5 from Richard Matson in 1951. He married Hanna Plitt, Leduc in 1947 and they had two children Delbert and Janine.

Emma Jobs was an avid reader, following closely the affairs of the world. She was well known for her love of flowers and gardening. She lived with her son

Ludwig, who retained the blissful state of bachelorhood.

Emma Jobs went to her eternal rest in April 1967.

GESTUR JOHANNSON

Gestur Johannson moved to the Hola district with his parents in 1906 from Tindastoll where he was born. In 1919 he bought land in the Craig district on to which he moved in 1923. This land NW 6-37-2-5 was homesteaded by Chris Johannson in 1906. The land was sold to a Mr. Fundin in the state of Washington. It was from him that Gestur bought. In 1962 Gestur sold to E.L. Flake and he moved to Innisfail.

During the second year on the place, the road running north and south past his place, commonly called the Benalto road, was cleared as was the road running east and west and north of him. A bush trail ran through the north-east corner of his place. This was begun by farmers getting wood on the Zelt place, NW 12, and on Gestur's place.

A particular incident he remembered was the drowning in 1914 of a 13 year old Sheik boy in the creek which runs through the former Ramage farm and the Charlie Miller place which was formerly owned by the Sheik family. Mr. Johannson recalled that in the early years many horses died of an epidemic known as glanders.

In 1942 Mr. Johannson married Miss Louise Christensen of Red Deer.

Mr. Johannson died in Innisfail in 1965. Mrs. Johannson died in Innisfail in 1970 and both were buried in the Tindastoll cemetery.

THORY JOHNSON

Thorhaller (Thory) Johnson came to the Craig district in 1923. He married Helene Sonnie.

Thory was born in 1897 in Iceland, and Helene was born in 1901 in Penna. U.S.A. They lived on S.W. 15 37 - 3 - W5 and their children attended the Craig school. Thory was a member and past Master of the Loyal Orange Lodge at Innisfail and Eckville, Sec. Treas. of the U.F.A. local and Sec. Treas. of the Craig school.

Their five children live in Calgary — Shirley (Mrs. G. Weber) has five children; Margaret (Mrs. A. Gilmour) has five children, Gladys; Harold, married with four children, and Victor.

Thory and Helene have made their home in Calgary since leaving this district. Thory is a veteran of World War I and World War II. Of the brighter side of his experiences he writes the following: "I enlisted in 1915. About twenty of us were given a Vicker Machine Gun Course. I got so I could form fours in my sleep but they sure taught us machine guns. Then we were sent to Belgium to teach others what we had learned.

My first front line duty was at good old Ypres. I took part in all the engagements of the 1st Division from then on.

Then there was my trip to Germany with the Army of Occupation. We were close to Mons on Nov. 11 1918 and came out of the line to a little village called

Erse. We left for Germany, on foot of course. We were supposed to make an average of eighteen miles per day. I was put on the billeting party which meant an extra three or four hours a day. There were no choice billets — one floor was as hard as another. They thought because I spoke English, Icelandic and very little French, I would be handy. But looking back, I think they figured I was a good scrounger, which I was. After crossing the Rhine we stopped at a small village where we met some of the finest people I have ever known. The floors were just as hard and a ground sheet and one blanket didn't help much.

I had my own crew with me and we had one room upstairs in a home owned by a widow and her two children. The family taught us to speak, read and write German, and in return, we scrounged anything we could in the line of food. Sometimes they had only black bread and potatoes but occasionally we were able to find a deer, or the odd tame goose or chicken. We had Christmas in the same village, in a big barn, where all the villagers joined in with lots of music and merry making. I think that was the best Christmas I've ever had.

We were replaced by another unit so finally got back to England.

In 1940 I enlisted again and was stationed for a time at Petawawa, Ont. but mostly at Currie Barracks in Calgary. In 1950, I took a course in Ottawa with the Canada Identification Bureau — finger printing and photography. I was at Currie until my retirement in 1957. In 1953 they gave me the Canadian Efficiency Decoration, also the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Medal."

JOSEPH K. JONES

An immigrant from Lithuania came to the home of his uncle, John Jones, in the Happy Hill district. Joe Jones worked in the neighborhood for several years before purchasing SW-34-36-3-5. Later Joe became acquainted with a refugee girl from Latvia by the name of Anna. She had been sponsored by a family near Bentley and brought from Germany. In 1953 Joe and Anna were married.

The land which he bought was poor but with hard work, good management and the help of Anna, he managed to build a modern home and make a good living.

In 1965 Joe suddenly passed away. The funeral and burial were held at Sylvan Lake. His broken-hearted wife sold the farm to Herman Schatschneider and went to live in Ontario.

EDWARD KELLY

Edward Kelly was the son of Ebenezer Kelly who had come out from Ontario in 1901 and took up a homestead on SE 6-37-2-5. The next year he returned to Ontario to bring out his family and three carloads of effects and stock. He also brought out his brother John and family whom he put on his homestead. Mr. Kelly, then, took up another homestead, NE6 and later bought the west half of 5. Son Edward started school at Hola in 1905. When the Craig school was built in 1908 the Kelly children transferred to it and

were among the first pupils. Prior to this a rain came which lasted 28 days in June. At that time there was a foot bridge across the Medicine river at Hola. Young Ed experienced a rather anxious time when, during the high water, he had to cross the bridge with water lapping at the bottom, to get his books from the Hola school.

An incident, which stands out in his memory in those early days, happened to a neighbor lady, Mrs. Chris Johanneson, who usually spent the winter alone while her husband went away to work. One evening she went out to lock up the sheep as usual and, on returning to the house, a black bear occupied the back doorstep. She ran to the neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Johnson where she spent the night. The next morning Mr. Johnson called for Mr. Kelly and they both went to the Johanneson place and the bear was still there. The men, then, went to Charlie Fixler's place to borrow a gun. On returning the bear had disappeared.

The Craig school is remembered for its groves of Spruce trees planted during the first year of school. Mr. Kelly helped plant the trees.

In the fall of 1909 Ebenezer Kelly had a sale and moved to Innisfail.

There were four sisters in the family: Rose (Mrs. Ernest Beaton) passed away in 1954; Pearl (Mrs. Quinlan) lives in Calgary; Susan (Mrs. Harrington) died in Oregon City, Oregon in 1970; Violet (Mrs. Wheaton) lives in Burnaby B.C.; two brothers: Mason who trained as a teacher, then took up farming. After leaving the farm near Elnora, he moved to Edmonton where he died in 1964. He is buried there. Evan, whose profession also was school teaching died in 1958 and was buried in Elnora.

JOHN KELLY

In checking the assessment and tax book, the J.H. Kelly family left the district in 1909. The eldest son, Harmon, one of the first pupils enrolled in the new Craig school was married to a Miss Walters. Trooper E.H. Kelly enlisted at Innisfail during World War I and was wounded on August 8, 1918 when his squadron charged a ridge and was met with heavy machine gun fire. He died on August 17, 1918. Besides his wife he left four small children, Mrs. Art McBride in Innisfail is one of his survivors.

WILLIAM OSCAR KING

This is a story connected with the Craig area and one which caused much excitement in the early days. It was told by Constable J.D. Nicholson, formerly Assistant Superintendent of the A.P.P., in his book, "Within the Law."

The Ploughmacher family lived on SE14-37-3-W5, the Bill Hansen place, and it was here that King stayed. He stayed sometimes with Whitcombs too, who lived on the Branson place.

"In September 1908, Nicholson was talking with a prisoner named King in Fort Saskatchewan, and was told of a place west of Innisfail where a body had been disposed of. Nicholson was ordered to escort

King to the spot. They were accompanied by Corp. Rodgers of Innisfail.

It was at Ploughmachers that King had said he and his associates had disposed of their plunder. The men searched the spot where the body was supposed to be but found nothing. They went on to Ploughmacher's buildings where they found Mrs. Ploughmacher, Mrs. Shultz and a Shultz boy.

The key to the handcuffs had been broken so the handcuffs could not be used. The horses needed feeding and in the process of unhitching, King took a horse in to the barn and escaped through a feed hole on the other side. He was seen running through the bush and they followed. They lost him so went on to the Craig Post Office to enlist a posse but had no success.

Then King was seen coming out of the bush. He was warned to stop but when he ignored the warning, Nicholson fired. King dropped his coat but got away. The men searched till dark but found no trace of him. The following day, farmers were conscripted, the search was resumed and continued for days. Because of his escape, Nicholson and Rodgers were reduced to Constables. Ted Thompson of Heckla was one of those conscripted.

Later, while visiting a family west of Innisfail, Nicholson noticed a photograph of King, with a woman and two children, which he learned was taken while King was homesteading in the Gaetz area.

The King family was now living in Edmonton. Nicholson kept in touch with them. In April 1909, King was arrested and turned over to the Mounties.

He was recognized by one of the policemen who had questioned him at Wetaskiwin, regarding a murder which had occurred south of Leduc. King was charged with murder and sentenced to hang. While waiting execution he confessed his guilt and told of his escape at Ploughmacher's. He also confessed to killing another man."

BLISS KIRKPATRICKS by Olive Kirkpatrick

I was born and received my schooling in North Dakota where I taught school, and "Kirk" as he was called, was educated in Illinois.

I came to Alberta in 1914 with my parents, settling near Empress.

The first year here, I was given a permit to teach, as teachers were very scarce, and I taught near Leader, Sask. "Kirk" was running a lumber yard in Prelate, the next town, where I taught later. We were married in 1916, and after a year, decided to go farming.

We had many chances to farm on the prairies but didn't wish to stay in the "Dry Area" as it was called.

Bliss came north, looking for a good location and decided on the Markerville district, as it was well spoken of. Many soldiers were also settling on farms there at that time.

There were no homesteads left, so we bought CPR raw land, SW7-37-2-W5. We rented a half section two miles away from Mindy Stephensen, known now as the "Happy Hill Farm". We were not there long before Inspector Gibson came and gave me a permit to teach, as a teacher was needed at Happy Hill.

There were not many spare moments in the day, combining farm work with teaching, but we had some very kind and helpful neighbors I could call on, when help was needed.

Farming was a completely new experience for Bliss, but he always seemed to enjoy it and was a good stock man. We had a man on Government Relief come from Edmonton, who walked down the two miles and back each day, cut and hewed the logs and built our first house. He worked for board and very little pay. After two years, we moved to our farm. Our house wasn't completed so we lived in our log shack, and even fed seventeen threshers there. But not all at once, as some of the younger women, who helped me, will remember.

Later our daughter Laurel, was born there. She is now Mrs. R. Rutschke. They have two children, Barbara and Lindsay, and live on the farm.

A teacher was needed in the Craig School that fall so I taught there and spent part of the winter with the Turners who had the farm now owned by Earl Branson. When I taught there, Mr. Chandler was secretary. I became secretary of the district later, and attended many evening meetings.

We belonged to the Bethel Ladies Aid and church back in the thirties. Many of the members have passed on now. We left the farm and came to Red Deer in the spring of 1951. Cattle were a good price, and Kirk wasn't feeling too well. He decided it was a good time to sell. We had lived in here, eight years, when Kirk passed away suddenly.

PAUL KOVACH

Mr. Paul Kovach came originally with his brother Frank from Yugoslavia to Edmonton, Alberta in 1927. He worked in the Leduc area for awhile, coming to the Craig district in 1930. Here in the Craig district, he was employed by the Lechelt family. While there, his thoughts were still in Hungary, where the girl of his dreams still lived. Soon arrangements were made that she come out to Alberta and so it was, that on August 6, 1930, Annie Oberhauser became his bride.

They worked together for Mr. H. Fredrick and later for the late Mr. Wm. Anderson, (whose farm is presently owned by the Dwight Matson family). During their stay there, they had one son, Charles, who now resides with his wife, the former Elna Staudinger of Sylvan Lake, and their three sons and one daughter, on the farm that Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kovach purchased and built on during 1936-1948.

They lived on that farm (SW2-37-3) until Mrs. Kovach Sr.'s death in 1969. They had been planning to retire to Calgary during that summer sometime, but Mrs. Kovach's death culminated the tentative plans abruptly. Charles and his family moved to the farm and Mr. Kovach Sr. moved to Calgary, where he is presently residing.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kovach were active members in the community and church life of the Craig district, and many remember the lovely angel food cakes and delicious Poppy Seed bread that Mrs. Kovach used to bake.

A.J. LEHELDT

Adolf Lechelt, living near Nisku, wished to expand his property. This he couldn't do around Edmonton because farmers wouldn't sell. In the fall of 1929, having heard about saleable land in the Craig district, Carl Lemke, Leo Schmidek and A. Lechelt came down to look. He purchased the east half of sec. 11. His wife and son, Allan, moved down in the spring. For several years he was trustee of the Craig Lutheran Church. He served on the school board for about 10 years. A daughter, Alice, was born to the couple. Allan married Eileen Smith of the Happy Hill district and is a plumber at Fairview, Alberta. Alice married Fred Freschette, formerly of Raven, who is a welder by trade. They live near Red Deer on the Burnt Lake Trail.

Mr. Lechelt has been living in Red Deer the past 19 years and is semi-retired.

FERDINAND LEMKE

Fred Lemke was born in Augustof, Poland in 1897. He married Olga Appel who was born in 1903 in Satusich, Poland.

Mr. and Mrs. Lemke and two children, Hilda and Helmut, came to Canada in 1929 settling at Nisku, Alberta where they remained until coming to Craig in April 1932.

Fred bought a quarter of land from John Hillman SE12-37-3-W5 which was completely covered with trees. So dense was the growth that when clearing a spot on which to build a house, it was said, the only way to see sunlight was to look straight up. For this reason Fred became known as "Bush Lemke" to identify him from his brother Carl, who lived close by. A sister, Mrs. Ferdinand Haupt, also lived in the district.

Fred used a broad axe to hew logs for a house. As soon as he had walls up and a roof on, the family moved in. No floor, no door, and no windows! Blankets covered the openings and, as could be expected, it rained heavily for several days.

The first land was broken by one of the Jobs boys, who had trouble finding his way to the house when it came meal time. In all those trees one could easily lose directions, so Fred would walk out from the house and whistle loudly and then the house could be more easily located.

Three more children were born in Canada - Florence, John and Gary.

Hilda (Mrs. Eric Matson) lives in the district.

Helmut married Marion Donnelly and they farm in the New Hill area. They have two children.

Florence (Mrs. Geo. Kirkham) lives in Calgary. They have two boys.

John attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary to become an aeronautical engineer. He married Ruth Hendrickson of Heckla and since their marriage they have been living in Montreal. In 1971 they returned to farm in this area. They have two children.

Gary attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary studying refrigeration and air conditioning. He married June Robertson of Markerville and they live in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Lemke passed away in 1968 and Fred makes his home in Calgary. His farm is rented to Harry Ramsay.

CARL LEMKE

Carl and Emilie Lemke came to Canada from Poland in 1927. They first settled at Nisku, and in 1931 with a group of German settlers, they moved to the Craig district, buying NW1-37-3-W5 from Oscar Coleman.

They were staunch supporters of the Lutheran church and services were often held in their home before the church was built.

After Carl's death, Mrs. Lemke moved to Red Deer where she still resides. The farm was taken over by their son, Helmut.

They had five children - Elsie (Mrs. Otto Pohl) of Markerville; Waldemar, who married Adeline Kuehn of Spruce View, lives in Diamond Valley, and they have four children; Helmut of Craig; Alfred of Calgary and Leona (Mrs. L. Phillips) of Red Deer.

HELMUT LEMKE

Helmut came with his parents to Craig in 1931. He had attended school one year at Great West in Nisku. When he started school he could speak no English but the teacher could speak German which was a big help.

Craig school always had a strong ball team and Helmut was their pitcher. Later he played on the community ball team which belonged to a league of five teams. Craig won the cup, the first year.

In 1948 he rented the land owned by G. E. Carter NE2-37 and in 1960 bought it. SW12-37 he has rented from Hal D. Craig since 1948. This land was rented by his father Carl from 1930-1948. In the earlier years, a close neighbor was bachelor Frank Feitl, their blacksmith, who lived on SE2-37, now owned by C. Kovach.

Helmut recalls some very heavy snowfalls when snow plows were not used to clear the roads, walking to school on the drifts and being able to reach up and touch the telephone wires, tunnelling through the drifts to get to the well house, when winter travel was by horse and sleigh only. One time about twenty people were in a sleigh going home around midnight after visiting a relative. On rounding a corner the weight shifted to one side, the box broke leaving everyone in a heap in the snow. It provided a good laugh at the time but next day the sore muscles and bruises began to appear.

Helmut married Irene Plitt of Leduc. They have three daughters Linda (Mrs. J. Hartrick) of Edmonton, Judy and Theresa. All are members of Christ Lutheran Church and Helmut has served as Elder, President, Sunday School teacher, Treasurer and also served on the Building Committee and as Education Chairman.

C.G.B. MACKENZIE

Burns MacKenzie came from Okotoks in 1919 and purchased NW2. He was hired to teach the Craig school till 1923. After leaving Craig he taught the

Hola School. He had sold the land to Gream Budvarson during the summer. He was considered an efficient teacher. It has been learned that he died in 1965 while principal of the Okotoks school.

RICHARD MATSON

In 1911, because he thought there would be more work in Canada and because he wanted to own his own home, Richard Matson decided to emigrate from Sweden and came to Canada. The Erik Engmans, had come out earlier and had lived in the same Swedish town. Mrs. Engman and Mr. Matson were cousins. He worked on the CNR construction from Red Deer to Nordegg until 1913 when he went to work for the Phoenix Lumber Company at Horburg. He made railroad ties and square timbers. Logging had been the work he had done in Sweden. In 1914 he took a homestead in the Craig district.

Mrs. Matson came out with three children in 1912 and rented a house in Burnt Lake until they joined Mr. Matson on the homestead. Mrs. Matson said the trees were so thick that, in order to see the sky, one had to look straight up. Through the years he cleared and broke three quarters of land.

On January 1, 1915, he started building a house. In the meantime the family lived on Arthur Holmgren's place. Water was easy to get, dig a hole 10 feet deep and crib it.

For food they depended on prairie chicken, rabbits and garden; wild fruit was plentiful. For flour, sugar, coffee etc., they drove to Markerville. At first butter was made from cream skimmed off milk till they could afford a cream separator when they sold cream. They kept five or six sheep, the wool from which Mrs. Matson spun yarn and knit sweaters, mitts and socks and also made bed comforters.

There were no roads, just trails winding among the trees, around some sloughs and through others. In 1948 when the Matsons moved to Sylvan Lake their road was graded and gravelled.

After five or six years there had been a very dry year. A prairie fire broke out and came within two miles of their home. At night they had to keep the horses in, in case of having to make a quick get away in the night. Fireguards were ploughed.

First threshing was done by John Dietz who had a small rig with stationary engine. It had a straw carrier and was hand fed.

The Matsons raised eight children: Astrid, Tyra, Carl, Annie, Lily, Eric, Sylvia and Inez.

Mr. Matson passed away in March 1970 and was buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

ERIC MATSON

Eric, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Matson, grew up in the Craig district. He married Hilda Lemke in 1942 and they have since made their home on SE36-36-3-W5.

Both attended school at Craig.

Eric is a member of the Elks Lodge No. 404 Benalto and Hilda belongs to the Royal Purple No. 233 Benalto. They helped start the Spruce View Curling Club and still act as drawmasters for the bon-

spiel each year. All community projects are given their support.

They have two children - Dwight and Deloras.

Dwight attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary studying agricultural technology. He married Anne Thorsen, R.N. and they live near his parents on SW30-36-3-W5. They have two sons.

Deloras R.N. (Mrs. Stanley Selinger) lives in Calgary where she took her nurse's training at the Holy Cross Hospital.

WALTER MAXSON

A prominent farmer and Hereford breeder in the Craig district was Walter Maxson. He was born in the Hola district and remained at home till 1930 when he purchased the SW6-37-2-W5, in the Craig district. At this time he married Elizabeth Bjornson of the Heckla district. He built up a herd of purebred Hereford cattle and gained a reputation in the cattle industry from showing registered cattle at local fairs, Calgary and the Toronto Royal Winter Fair. His cattle were often offered for sale at Olds, Red Deer and Calgary auction marts. Mr. Maxson branched out into the dairying industry and developed a herd of well bred Holstein dairy cattle. He also went into hog raising, building a large hog barn for the business.

Walter was one of the first in the area to use fertilizer; he made it produce and he made it pay.

Walter was considered a successful business man and built up a set of attractive farm buildings. His farm was known as Golden Hour Hereford Farm. In later years he purchased the SE6 and NE31-38-2-W5 in the Craig district.

Mrs. Maxson was a life member of the Icelandic Ladies' Aid at Markerville and a charter member of Wild Rose Womens' Institute. Both were confirmed members of the Icelandic Lutheran Church at Markerville. Mr. Maxson served as president of the Central Alberta Hereford Association and he supported the 4-H Beef Clubs giving prizes to encourage the youth. While training for professions several young people benefitted from his financial gifts.

In the spring of 1961 Mr. and Mrs. Maxson retired to Innisfail selling their farm to Mr. Harry Ramsay. Mrs. Maxson passed on in August 1961 and Mr. Maxson died in the spring of 1966. Both were buried in the Innisfail Cemetery.

JOHN B. McLEOD

John B. McLeod was born in Lyndon, Ontario in 1874 and came to Alberta with his parents in 1891. They drove north from Calgary by team and wagon and homesteaded east of Innisfail. At Innisfail in 1904 John McLeod married Bella Gehrke who was born in Egansville, Ontario in 1882. She had come west with her family at the turn of the century and settled west of Red Deer.

While east of Innisfail, their three daughters were born. In 1914 they bought SW2-37-3-W5 from Fred Brown in the Craig district (now Kovachs). The only close neighbors at the time were Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wilson who lived on the same section.

Living so close to the school, Mrs. McLeod boarded most of the Craig teachers. She also did the



Julius Wilson and John McLeod families.

janitor work for many years. She did a lot of fancy work, entering her work in different fairs and winning many prizes.

John McLeod served as school trustee and did blacksmith work for the neighbors — sharpening plow shares, shoeing horses and welding.

The highlight of the year was the Icelandic picnic at Markerville. John attended and enjoyed all farm sales. He usually took Minnie and Pearl along and they found it most interesting and exciting going through the things he would buy at these sales. Pearl still has one of the articles — a music cabinet.

Minnie and Pearl enjoyed riding horseback. Sometimes they would go picking berries or perhaps rounding up the cattle. Other times they rode just for the fun of it.

After Mr. McLeod's death in 1933, Dorothy and her mother carried on with the farm until the spring of 1935, when they sold it to Paul Kovach. Mrs. McLeod moved to Calgary where she resided until her death in 1954.

Dorothy worked in a restaurant for three years, then came home to help on the farm. When the farm was sold, she worked for O.M. Nielsen of Happy Hill, then bought a small farm east of Red Deer. Since selling the farm, she has lived in Seattle, Washington.

Pearl worked for three years in Ottawa for the Department of National Revenue. From 1942-1945 she worked for the Department of Munitions and Supply. She is now retired and lives in Calgary.

Minnie is married and lives in Calgary; they have two children.

J.D. MILLER

N1/2-29-36-R2-W5.

The first buildings erected on this half belonged to the family of Ewellyn Anderson, after the second war.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray McKain took over the farm about 1948, with emphasis on pigs. Mrs. McKain was a school teacher.

When Ray McKain sold the farm to John Miller, formerly of Okotoks, where his father had farmed following the First Great War, cattle were introduced instead of pigs. The mixed farming enterprise is being carried on by son Jeffrey with assistance of daughter Janice and wife Dorothy.

MR. AND MRS. WARREN C. MILLER

(As told by Mrs. Blanche Miller - Mrs. W.C.) My husband and I were born in Colorado. I was born in a dugout. My father was a friend of Buffalo Bill Cody.

Warren and I married in Stirling, Colorado and came to Canada to the Langdon district in 1908. In 1917, we moved to Rockyford and the following year, we came with our five children to the Craig district and settled on the land where the Craig school is today. The children were Thelma, Eunice, Roy, Charles, and Alma.

We came overland by covered wagon driving 125 head of cattle and 32 horses. My brother, Vern Brooks, helped us. We had quite a trip. Flies bothered the cattle and on one occasion we went back nine miles to recover one steer so we did not make much headway that day.

The first year we were in the district, we had fifteen head of horses stolen and nine more stolen the next year. This was quite a loss.

The winter of 1918-19 was a terrible winter. We put up over 200 tons of hay after we arrived and if we had sold our hay instead of feeding it, we would have made money as hay sold for \$85.00 a ton. As it was we fed it all and because of the long winter, we had to buy straw if we could get it. I remember my husband and Percy Scott, our neighbor, buying straw. They had to go east of Markerville for it. They came home with half a load and it cost them \$24.00!

Two more sons were born to us at Craig - Frank and Dewey. Benalto was our main centre. We hauled our grain and livestock there to sell and bought our groceries. We used four horses and a wagon and box.

In 1929, we moved to the N.W. 32-36-2-W5. This was in the Hola district. So, the children going to school then, finished at Hola. Charlie still lives on this farm. My husband, Warren, died in 1939 after a lengthy illness, and in 1941 I moved 2-1/2 miles east to a place on the Medicine River, which we had bought from the C.P.R. Dewey and Betty lived there with me.

My son, Roy, and my grandson, Warren, now own this and I live in my own house at Roy's place. The children are all married. Frank passed away in 1936.

Thelma married John Mundell of Okotoks, where they lived and farmed until 1967 when they moved to Spruce View with their youngest daughter, Adella. They have nine children - Frank, Myrna, Nancy, Roy, Warren, Patricia, Ralph, Ray, and Adella.

Their son, Ray, came to this district in 1964 and lives on the farm formerly owned by Pat Ross. He married Molly Downey of Black Diamond and they have four children - Rosemary, Jonathan, Jessica, and Robin.

Eunice married George Fleishman in 1933. He died as a result of an accident and in 1935, she married Harris Smith of Prairie Creek where they farm. They have four children - Janet, Ronald, Ethel, and Robert.

Alma married Helge Jensen and they lived on the old Comstock farm for awhile, then went to Okotoks

where they still live. They have six children - Shirley, Raymond, Margaret, Dwayne, Patty, and Brian.

Dewey married Gladys Duncan of Eckville and lives near Rocky Mountain House. He has three children - Frank, Beverly, and David.

Betty married Vern Gummow of Willowdale and lives at Sundre. She has five children.

Roy and Charlie live in the district, and will tell their own stories.

A.E. MUNDT

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Mundt and family of four came out from Poland in 1929 to Leduc. His wife passed away in 1931. In the fall of 1931 Mr. Mundt came with his three older children to Craig purchasing SW34-36-3-W5. The youngest of the family, a girl, was left in Leduc where she was brought up by friends. Mr. Mundt raised the three children by himself; they were Siegfried, Gunda and Albert. After the family was grown, in 1958, he sponsored a lady from Germany whom he married. She had three children Erdman, Frieda and Ida. Twins were born in 1950, Alfred and Alice.

Failing health forced Mr. Mundt to sell his land in 1964, to Alfred Schatschneider. He moved to Edmonton where he passed away in 1969. Siegfried is farming in the Peace River country, Gunda and Albert are living in Calgary. Erdman who married Doreen Zelt is in California; Frieda, Ida, Alfred and Alice are living in Edmonton. Alfred is attending University in Edmonton with plans to be a medical doctor. All are married.

L. OPSTAD

Louis Opstad and family lived on the SW sec. 10, now known as the Steel estate. Mr. Opstad was a carpenter by trade and built the Craig schoolhouse in 1908, also the Vandaele barn which is still in use. Five of his children were enrolled for the opening of school, Melvin, Emma, Louis, Olivia and Edwin.

Edwin became a school inspector in the state of Washington and a few years ago retired to live near Seattle.

Melvin became a successful veterinarian in Vancouver and died, not long after receiving his degree, from cancer. The year of his death a spruce tree which had been chosen by him and planted after the opening of the Craig School, also died. Louis is retired and lives at Port Townsend, Washington. He had worked years for Standard Oil Company.

E.P. PEDERSLIE AND P.P. PEDERSLIE

The Pederslies were of Norwegian extraction and became close friends of T.O. Thompson of Heckla who is also Norwegian. Ted stayed with the Ejnar Pederslies a great deal since he had homesteaded SE4. The Pederslies came from Montana. While in the district they contributed to the life of the community by use of their musical talents. Ejnar was known for his athletic prowess especially in the sport of skating.

From the records P. Pederslie and family, who lived on the SW12, left for Vancouver in 1912. Ejnar homesteaded NE2. They left for Vancouver in 1915.

HARRY RAMSAY

Harry Ramsay, second youngest of the William Ramsay family of Pine Hill, was born in 1926. He was raised and took his schooling at Pine Hill. He worked at home with his Dad and youngest brother Roy.

In 1946 he started farming in partnership with Roy on land rented from Mr. T.H. Thompson of Marker-ville.

In 1949 he married Evelyn Sage of the Clive district. They lived for three years on the Eric Charlson place where they rented the house, as it was close to his farm land. Later they moved on to a farm they purchased from Joe Smith of Pine Hill. Seven years later, in 1961, they purchased the Walter Maxson farm in the Craig district and have lived there since.



Harry Ramsay "Master Farm" Family — 1970.

Harry, Evelyn, and family attend the Bethany Lutheran Church at Dickson, and are also members of the Craig Community Society.

They have nine children — Ronald, Gerald, Karen (Mrs. Leonard Walker), Susan, William, Marilyn, Sharon, Bonnie, and Kenneth. They lost an infant son Marvin in 1966.

Ron and Gerald have attended sessions at the Olds Agricultural and Vocational College and all the children are active members of 4-H groups. Ron is assistant leader of the Benalto Beef Club. In 1970 he won Grand Champion for his Aberdeen Angus bull at the Calgary Spring Bull Sale. He and Karen teach Sunday School at Dickson. Ron purchased a half section from the Hal Craig family of Happy Hill. He and Gerald farm with their father.

A recent achievement for the Harry Ramsays was winning the Master Farm Family Award for 1970.

SCHATSCHNEIDER FAMILY

Gottfried and Maryanna Schatschneider, and their eight children lived in Wladimir, Wolinzk, which is now part of Poland. At the start of World War I in 1914, this area was in the midst of the battlefield. As the fronts came closer, the family packed and left, taking with them only those possessions which they could carry.

In 1916 the family was taken prisoner by German soldiers, had all possessions seized, and was trans-



Herman Schatschneider feeding pigs.

sported to Germany to work in the labor force. Here they lived until 1921. In 1924 Gottfried died of the flu.

One bright spot was the letters they received from Canada. Maryanna's brother had come to Canada in 1898 and was living at Leduc. In 1927, in return for future work, this brother sent the fare so that Maryanna and Herman could come to Canada.

They left Germany on the ship Frederick IV and docked in Halifax, from where they would go by train to Winnipeg and Leduc. Once in Winnipeg they had to transfer from the CNR to the CPR. Confusion resulted and only being able to speak German did not help matters. Herman went in search of the CPR station but became lost. Some Jewish people aided him by instructing him to speak only to uniformed people.

At Leduc they met people who could speak German and who directed them to their relatives.

Herman was fortunate at someone else's misfortune. A farmer was hurt and Herman was able to help him for \$10.00 a month. He continued working there all winter and his mother stayed with friends. At one time this farmer bought Herman shoes, mitts, cap and a coat for \$12.00. Much to Herman's surprise, this was not taken out of his wages at the end of the month. When spring came, wages rose to \$35.00 a month. At harvest time wages were \$3.00 a day for stooking and \$4.00 a day for threshing from five in the morning to eight at night.

Herman was only seventeen at the time, but he saved carefully and was soon able to pay his uncle the \$360.00 cost of his and his mother's fare from Russia.

On April 18, 1930, Herman and his mother moved out to their newly purchased C.P.R. land at Craig. The land cost \$3400, or \$113.75 a year for 34 years. While clearing the land, they stayed with the Leo Schmidek family. In the winter of 1930-31 they put up logs and built their first home, which is now on Irvin Jobs' land. It was only a log shell with no windows or doors.

The first crop was a bumper one and then came the problem of putting up a granary to put it in and a binder to take it off with. All this with no money and bank credit non-existent.

Herman went down to see Carl Christiansen at Dickson and put the proposition up to him. Carl took a good look and decided that he had taken bigger chances than this before and let him have the lumber.

Herman went into Stewart Brothers at Penhold to see if he could get a binder without money. They had a second-hand binder for which they were asking \$200.00 but wanted \$50.00 down payment. Herman had four young steers that weighed about 800 pounds and one that weighed about 600. Stewart Brothers sent Phil Tweenen out to look at them and he offered Herman \$48.00 for them; just \$2.00 short of making the down payment.

Herman and his mother lived on five cows, which brought them 10-12c per pound of butter fat. The CPR offered the farmers who had bought this bush land, a proposition. For every dollar they were able to make as a payment, the CPR would credit them with two dollars.

By 1941, Herman had his farm paid for. During this period his mother was a tower of strength and encouragement to him. While Herman was cutting the brush and grubbing the roots, she was out there with him in the hot summer sun, wearing her babuska and heavy wool dress, burning the brush. She never used more than one match to get the fire going.

In 1940, Herman married Susanna Jobs. Three sons were born to them: Alfred, Edward, and Ronald. Herman purchased the Joe Jones' quarter, the Mundt quarter, and the Joe K. Jones' quarter.

In November 1957 Maryanna, passed away.

Alfred married Louise Szymanek, and they are living on the home place. They have two children, Lori and Janice. Edward and Fay Sanderson were married and they are living on the Joe K. Jones' farm.

In 1971, Susanna passed away. She was an active member in the Church and belonged to the Craig Lutheran Ladies Aid and Craig Community Society.

Herman is living in Red Deer and Ron is living in Regina.

LEO SCHMIDEK

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Schmidek arrived in Canada from Poland in the spring of 1927. They brought with them their two children, Gerald and Gertrude. They settled in the Nisku area where many relatives had come before them. The same year they moved to the Craig district where Mr. Schmidek's brothers, Dan and Rudolph had come a few years before. Here a daughter, Ella was born, now Mrs. John Wandler with three daughters residing in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. In 1928, the Schmidek brothers decided to speculate. They moved to the Edson area by horse and sleigh, where they each took up a homestead. In 1930, Leo moved back to the Craig district and purchased the Chatwood homestead. The purchase was made from Horace Miller of Washington, U.S.A. Another son, Harold, arrived. He now resides in Red Deer and has a son and daughter. Edith (Mrs. Marvin Olsen) of Red Deer has two sons and a daughter. Of the twins, Marlene and Marvin, the former is Mrs. Ralph Sveinson of Red Deer with two daughters and a son, and the latter resides at Craig. Gertrude, Mrs. John Pither, resides in Vancouver, B.C. with a daughter and a son. Gerald lives at Craig. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidek

retired to Red Deer in 1961. Mr. Schmidek passed away in 1970.

GERALD SCHMIDEK

Gerald Schmidek bought N.E. - 27 - 36 - 3 W5. from Mr. George Stach of Leduc in 1948. In the fall of 1950 he married Lydia These of Hay Lakes Alberta. They have four children, Elaine (Mrs. Allan Johansson of Red Deer), Larry, Gerald Jr. and Brenda. All are members of the Christ Lutheran Church, Gerald and Lydia having held offices in the church council and Ladies Aid. Gerald is a past president of the Dickson Fish and Game Assoc.

MARVIN SCHMIDEK

Marvin also lives in this area, having taken over the homeplace in 1961, N.E. 34 - 36 - 3 - 5. Also in that year he married Doreen Plitt of Rolly View. They have four children, Leanne, Darin, Darcy and Michele. Marvin is active in the Craig Lutheran Church and the Farmers Union. He has driven the school bus for many years. Marvin also owns N.W. 27-36-3-W5.

FRED SCHMIDT

Born in Schleswig Holstein, a part of Denmark (later taken over by Germany) in 1865, Ferdinand (Fred) Schmidt spent some time in U.S. before coming to Innisfail. He was a mason by trade and, while in Innisfail, worked in the brick yard. He filed on a homestead NW34-36-3-W5 in the Craig district. He was married in 1905 to Agnes Harper whom he met at the home of Mrs. Alfred Anderson who operated a boarding house in Innisfail. The minister officiating at the wedding was Rev. Johnson, a Methodist.

Mr. Schmidt was fluent in the German and Danish languages.

There were many lean years before he got a start in cattle. He was fortunate at that time in being surrounded by much open land on which he could pasture his stock. For a number of years he was foreman in the area in road construction. He served as school trustee the longest of any member in the district and was on the first school board. The latter years he was the cream hauler to Markerville creamery. It is said you could set your watch or clock by his arrival, he was so regular.

The family attended church and Sunday School at Bethel. Mrs. Schmidt was a member of the Bethel Ladies' Aid.

Mrs. Schmidt was born in 1884 at Torque, England. As a child in an orphan's home, she was brought out to a Quebec Girl's Home. When 11 years old she came out to a family in Calgary by the name of Bowers. The Bowers family later moved to Rocky Mountain House where they operated an Indian store, trading supplies for hides and wild meat which they dried. From there Mrs. Schmidt went to Innisfail where she worked as a domestic. The Andersons later moved to a farm in Spruce View and she went along.

The Schmidt family included: Ruth (Mrs. Allen Barber), Boise, Idaho; Dorothy (Mrs. Oscar Giles) Innisfail; John, Calgary; Ellen died in 1913; Lilian

(Mrs. Vern Thompson) Victoria; Florence (Mrs. Paul Stafford) Victoria, B.C.; Lester, Calgary; Alpha (Mrs. Claude Walroth) Red Deer, Alta, her twin died in 1922; Vina (Mrs. Ralph Fike) Calgary; Claude and Donald, Calgary.

Lester served in the Army Service corps during World War II enlisting in 1940. Served in England then sent to Sicily in 1943 and later to Italy where he took TB and was hospitalized. He was returned to England before coming back to Canada when he spent one year in hospital. He has not made a complete recovery.

Claude served in the Artillery for four years. He met his wife Alice McCrae, at Brandon, Manitoba. Coming back to Craig in 1948 they opened up a service station and a trucking business. They left in 1953 for Innisfail, then went to Calgary where he has been employed with the C.P.R.

Mrs. Schmidt, remembers one time that her husband passed out while fighting a prairie fire which came from the north-east and caught in a manure pile. A little whisky brought him around she said.

Mr. Schmidt died in 1932 and is buried in Dickson cemetery. Mrs. Schmidt has resided the past years with her widowed daughter, Mrs. Giles, in Innisfail.

P.G. SCOTT

In 1920 or thereabouts, Percy Scott, a World War I veteran, purchased NE2 and brought his wife, Germaine, a war bride, and her son, Maurice. He later got NE4. After four years he decided farming was not for him. He had an auction sale in 1924 and moved to Calgary where he went into the insurance business.

W. A. (ART) STEEL PLACE

Wesley Steel, with his wife and family of seven, and Mrs. Steel's brother, Elmer Darr, left Winfield, Kansas in February 1919 to come by immigrant train to Innisfail. The weather was warm with no snow. They rented a team of horses and wagon - complete with hot rocks and straw - from Frank Anderson at the livery stable, loaded their total possessions - and started out to Markerville early in the morning. Mr. Steel had \$200.00 when he arrived at Innisfail.

They arrived in Markerville in time for dinner and the snow by then, was getting deep. They went on to the SW - 10 - 37 - 3W5, which had been purchased previously by Otto Steel who had been living at MacLeod. The land had a house and a few other buildings. They built a bunk to sleep on and filled it with straw, used apple boxes to sit on and built a table from one of the partitions in the house. During the first few years they used prairie chickens, rabbits and pigeons for meat.

This land had been bought from Mr. Hornerbrook in 1918 for \$20.00 per acre. Elmer Darr bought NE - 3 - 37. He stayed about a year, turned it over to Wesley and moved back to Kansas. In 1922 Wesley bought NW - 10 - 37 from a Mr. Davis for \$1600.00. Nothing was cleared on this quarter at that time.

The first wheat grown in 1922 was Ruby wheat. It froze early that year and the wheat had to be used for feed. The Steel family bought their first team of hor-

ses and a sow from Cyrille Vandaele. The price of butterfat in the 30's was .08c per lb. They sold cream to the Markerville Creamery. They raised sheep for many years.

Wesley and Elmer were burning brush on the east quarter; the fire got away - jumped the road allowance at the church and went south, burning many acres. The same day, a fire came through from Alhambra and burned out much of the country from Prairie Creek to the Medicine River. These fires left ground fires - some of which burned for years. Mrs. Steel had her children lie face down, in the garden patch, to keep away from the smoke. The buildings had been fire guarded but she worried that they might not hold - they did.

The first winter Wesley walked from home to Markerville (20 miles round trip) for groceries. One time he did this in 62 degrees below zero weather and carried 50 lbs. of flour home on his back.

Wesley and sons worked on roads to pay taxes. Wesley worked on the first drainage ditches south to Dickson.



Art Steel binding.

Trees were planted in 1938 in preparation for building the new house, and in 1946 they moved into their new home, now owned by W.A. (Art) Steel. The lumber for this house was logged and sawed at Prairie Creek by the Steel family.

The first car they bought was a Ford - purchased in 1925 from the W.E. Lord Company in Red Deer.

Their first telephone was installed in 1923 from Markerville. They had it taken out in 1929 because of hard times.

Mrs. Wesley (Belle) Steel was a charter member of the Wild Rose Womens Institute which began in 1948. Prior to this, she belonged to the Bethel Ladies Aid. The children rode a horse six miles to Sunday School at Bethel. Mrs. Steel was born in Burden, Kansas in 1883, took her schooling there, then went on to graduate from college at Winfield, Kansas, and married Wesley in 1905. She was a hard working, honest and good woman, who was never too busy to help a neighbor. She was a nature lover and instilled this in all her children. She died in the Eckville hospital in 1952 and was buried in the Innisfail Cemetery.

Wesley was born in Wellington, Kansas on Nov. 6, 1877. On his new land in Canada, he cleared many acres - chopping trees by hand and pulling the roots

with horses. He was an outspoken man and his word was his bond. He died in the Eckville Hospital in 1959 and is buried in the Innisfail Cemetery.

In 1950, Linda Glenn, infant daughter of Herb. Glenn - granddaughter of Madeline (Steel) Glenn - died and the funeral was held in the Steel house.

Art Steel hosted a dinner for the entire Steel family on Feb. 6, 1969, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their coming to Canada.

The children are: Arthur is living on the original land. Ruth married John Freisen. They have one son Jay, one daughter Verna, all living in Calgary. Madeline married Wilfred Glenn.

John married Aurora Hjalmsen. They have 3 children: Hazel, Dale and Judy. John now makes his home with his daughter, Hazel. He owns a farm in the New Hill district and works for the Federal Government with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs at Banff.

Mildred married John MacDonald and lives in Calgary.

Elsie married John Stewart. She has two step children: Norman (Skip) and Marie.

Urna, married Bernard Schamber and they live on a farm in the Sylvan Lake district. They have two sons: Floyd and Arthur and one daughter LeaAnn.

Deryl was born in the farm home with Mrs. Calvin Turner as midwife, assisted by Mrs. Jim Hopkins. He served in the U.S. Armed forces from 1944 to 1946.

DERYL STEEL PLACE

NE - 4 - 37 - 3W5 was homesteaded by Marvin (Mel) Chatwood, who built a house and barn on it. He didn't prove up so Percy Scott bought it from the Government. Scott tore down the house and moved to the Carter place. Scott hadn't proved up on the homestead either so in 1929 Otto Steel bought it.

In 1919 Otto had brought a large herd of cattle to the Wesley Steel farm. The following spring there was a violent blizzard and many of the cattle died. Otto and Wesley took what were left of the cattle north, and sold them at Westlock.

Otto returned to Southern Alberta, where he ran a threshing machine. He also worked as a brand inspector for the R.C.M.P. He spent most winters with his brother Wesley, until 1929 when he moved to his own land.

He bought three quarters of land in the New Hill district - SE, NE SW quarters of 36-36-4 W 5, to use for hay and pasture.

Otto was a shrewd business man, and helped many neighbors with loans of money. He shipped train car loads of machinery from the south - repaired the machinery, then sold it at auction sales and privately. Two of these auctions were held on Wesley Steel's farm, and Mrs. W. Steel spent many days baking cookies etc. to serve as lunch.

Otto had a way of pronouncing people's names just a little differently than other people did. He never married and always lived alone. He enjoyed visiting and having visitors. He greatly appreciated and enjoyed good cooking.

On March 20, 1955, Marie Glenn rode her horse over to Otto's place to take him a noon meal of fish and chips. When she got there she found him in the cattle corral, dead and frozen in the snow. He had had a heart attack. Marie raced her horse through two feet of snow, to Wesley Steel's and told them what had happened. He was buried at Burden, Kansas.

This land was taken over by his nephew, Deryl Steel, who still farms it. He married Helen Carritt in 1957. They have two children - Wesley and Leona.

WILLIAM CALVIN TURNER by Mrs. Mary Feinberg

My husband was a cattleman, that is, he was raised on the wide open spaces of Texas. He and three other families decided to move to the far north, to Fort St. John. We had a good trip and were two summers making it as far as Central Alberta where we stayed.

My husband's three sons were with us, also my son and daughter by a previous marriage. When we were on the road with our wagons nearly two months, we had to set up camp and stay until I gave birth to my baby - a fine big boy. I lay on a carpet in my tent beside a beautiful lake. Not far away was a crowd of people enjoying a grand picnic and I could hear the fine, sweet music all day and far into the night.

The boys all got work there and we made many friends. The summer soon passed and we were given a house for the winter. I made quilts while the men worked.

In May we started out again. Men would stop my husband and offer him work in the beet fields or sugar factories, at good pay but we continued our long trek north, over the mountains, through Yellowstone Park with its beauty and wonderful hot springs.

Finally on August 24, 1912, we crossed the line into Canada, very much travel worn. We stopped at the home of my husband's daughter and the men all got work with a man who had a steam threshing machine. When pay day came around, the man hadn't a cent with which to pay them - it seems his wife collected first. We rented the man's farm, took a few pigs, a bin full of very good oats and a few chickens. We had no money to buy furniture, so made a table out of the sideboards of one wagon and used apple boxes for chairs. I must admit I shed some tears but God was with us.

From my childhood I loved chickens. I took good care of them and they must have loved me. They really did well, so much so, that the next fall we took a wagon load to Medicine Hat to sell. With the money, we bought a nice table which my son still has in his front room, and chairs; also a rocking chair, which I still use.

Our next journey took us to the Craig district - we lived on SW1-37-3-W5. Here, my husband, with me by his side in good weather or bad, lived well and we were able to help others. I nursed quite a number of women through childbirth.

Every cent we got we used to buy more cattle and for three winters I helped my husband milk twenty-

two cows. We always got top price for our cream in Markerville. When my husband's health began to fail, our son Calvin took over.

Calvin Turner now lives on a fully modern farm twenty miles from Ponoka. Though I never got to the Peace River country, I have a grandson up there now.

My other son, Jack Mayhew, lives in Calgary, and my daughter, Mrs. Ruby Nichols, lives at Black Diamond.

I make my home in Ponoka and since coming here, I married Mr. Feinberg who passed away a few years ago. I will soon be ninety-five years old and to celebrate the occasion I have been promised an airplane ride.

Mrs. Feinberg passed away in 1963, a short time after writing the above.

CYRILLE VANDAELE

Born in Pasendale, Belgium, Cyrille Vandaele, son of a farmer, immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1888. He was then 18 years old. Travelling by boat, steerage class which was cheaper but very rough, he reached New York and took a train to Sacramento, Calif., where he obtained a job in a Smelting Plant. He worked for eight years in the heat of the plant and saved enough money to go home to visit his parents.

On the boat he met Bennonie Joseph who was governess to the two children of the French Ambassador and stayed at the White House. They arranged to travel back together and romance flourished. At that time Cyrille changed jobs and worked in a coppermine in Butte, Montana, where Bennonie joined him. They were married on July 4, 1897 — It snowed that night!

Their first child, Joseph, was born in 1899. In 1901 they had a daughter Blanche. Frank arrived in 1903 and to complete the family, Harry arrived in 1907.

Mining in those years was even more dangerous than it is today. Fearing for her husband's safety, the young bride persuaded him to find different employment.

In Canada, The Peace River Co. was offering homesteads at \$10.00 a quarter section, providing the homesteader would clear a certain amount of the land, raise so much stock and stay at least 6 months of each of three years on his claim. He could then receive title to the quarter. Each prospective owner took a chance on what he got whether muskeg, brush or both, he still only paid the required \$10.00.

Inspectors checked periodically and often the neighbors loaned cattle to each other to help prove their homesteads and even moved fences so a neighbor had broken land to prove a claim.

In February of 1903 Cyrille travelled by train to look at the Peace River Country, but stopping in Calgary changed his mind and only got as far as Innisfail. Checking at the Land Office, he found land was available west and hired Frank Anderson to drive him out to look over the country. Cyrille thought Frank would make a good neighbor so he located on S.W. 36-36-3-W5. There he built a frame house with two rooms and later finished the upstairs with two more rooms — Joe recalls the house was

built without the use of a level or square — nothing fancy but they called it home. Eventually the house had the top cut off and is now serving as a granary.

Cyrille went back to fetch his wife and family and shipped their possessions by train. These consisted of a team of horses, walking plow, old mower and hayrake, two cows and their household effects.

There was plenty of work in building a barn, breaking small patches of open land to sow oats for feed and a garden patch. And of course a well to dig for water.

Bush and prairie fires were serious and Joe recalls that in 1904-05 one such fire north of their homestead threatened them so his Dad moved the family and some of their belongings into the middle of a ploughed field. Fighting fires then was a case of ploughing a furrow around the buildings, starting a back fire and beating it with wet gunny sacks. The water was hauled in a barrel by a horse drawn stone boat.

For the first two or three years Cyrille broke land with a walking plough. Clearing of brush came later. He lost some of his horses with foot rot. Seemingly they were not acclimatized to Canadian conditions. To cut his losses he bought oxen and used them to pull out stumps. The brush was cleared with an axe and small stuff with a scythe. When old enough Frank walked barefoot behind a set of ten foot harrows driving those same oxen.

Credit must be given to the young bride who, though city bred soon learned to bake bread, to milk cows, raise chickens, tend a garden and to raise a family. Her husband was an industrious person, working hard in the field and eating his lunch there rather than take time to go home for a meal. Cooking in the homesteading days was no easy task, often burning green wood to heat the cast iron stoves and ovens. The women would pick wild fruit and Bennonie learned from Grandma Anderson how to can it. Supplies were got from town about four times a year and Eaton's Catalogue supplied other needs. Green coffee beans were bought in 50 lb. bags and had to be roasted and ground before use. They would use about 100 lbs. per year and about 10 to 12 - 100 lb. sacks of flour. Sugar, both white and brown, was purchased in 100 lb. sacks. Meat and bacon was cured in the smoke house, and stored in a bin of oats as was the flour to prevent damage from the ever present mice.

Joe remembers being tethered to the house to prevent him wandering into the surrounding bushland, but he did manage one day to slip the tie and walked over to Andersons much to the concern of his parents.

School days were from March to December with holidays during the severe cold winter. For part of one school term there were only five children, the two Chandler boys and the three Vandaele children. The Vandaele children were lucky in that they were only one and a half miles from school and less than that when they cut across an open section. In winter time when sleighing was good they would often hitch a ride for a half mile on a load of lumber, posts, fence



Harry, Frank and Joe Vandaele.

rails or firewood. There would often be fifteen or twenty loads, one behind the other, some four horse teams but mostly two.

In 1908, with a growing herd of cattle and more horses, the need for a larger barn induced the hiring of Louis Opsted to construct a substantial building, and it is still standing in 1972.

A bachelor by the name of Moorhouse lived on N.E. 26-36. He led a pretty rough and unsanitary life. Once when Cyrille V. offered him a piece of fresh meat, he refused saying he had just killed a coyote. In 1925 Cyrille bought the land from Moorhouse and it is still owned by Frank.

Around 1920 Cyrille decided to raise sheep and in a few years had a considerable flock. It was then they started breaking up the land in earnest using eight horses on a breaking plow. By 1926 the farm was pretty well under cultivation. In 1928 they got their first tractor and from then on started to get power equipment.

When he went to Calgary in 1920 for rheumatic treatments, Cyrille bought a Ford touring car with two seats, and side curtains. He drove it once. It stormed from February to April and as he did not care much about driving anyway, he gave it up as a bad job.

In 1926 a new two storey house was built. Running water and electricity provided by a Delco light plant made this a modern home. Two years previously the Sam Rhodes family had installed modern conveniences.

Unfortunately Bennonie Vandaele died in 1927 and Cyrille in 1929 so neither of them lived long enough to enjoy their new home.

After the death of their parents the children carried on by themselves, having by that time plenty of experience. They bought a half section to the south - W25 - 36, from a man in the U.S. Frank still owns the south quarter.

Joe farmed the home place with Frank until 1947. He tried fruit farming in B.C. for one year, then farmed near Delburne a few years. He is married and now lives on an acreage west of Innisfail along the Red Deer River.

Frank sold the farm in 1966 to Harvey Boyd. He and wife Joan moved into Innisfail a few years before moving to Victoria B.C.

Blanche married Hal Berry in 1928. See Raven.

Harry, the more adventurous one, went to Calgary where he ran a service station during the depression years. He and a friend Milt Campbell, left in 1934 to

spend three winters in the north. At the mouth of the Nahanni R. they built a small cabin and lived off the land. Game was scarce and their main food that winter, was rabbits. They ran traplines in winter and prospected in summer. In the fall of 1935 Harry came home and stayed until spring, when Joe returned with him and stayed in the north until September. In Dawson Creek they got supplies of beans, rice, powdered milk, dried eggs, flour, canned butter and ten pound tins of bacon which they took to Fort St. John by truck and by sleigh to the mouth of the Con-way R.

After Harry returned to Calgary he married, and started a mink and chicken ranch which he operated until his death.

GLEN WALKER

Glen Walker and Dorothy Reeser were married after Glen had arrived in the area, in 1946, with his parents from Alsask, Sask., and was farming with his father.

At the time of her marriage Dorothy was working in Innisfail. Prior to this during a severe teacher shortage she had spent a year as supervisor in the Crammond School.

They first lived on SW13-36-2-W5 until 1957 when they moved to their present home on NW12-37-35, which they purchased from Gus Zelt.

They have five children, Leonard, Rena, Deborah, Jaye Ann and Kenneth. Leonard married Karen Ramsay and they have two daughters. Deborah, Jaye Ann, and Kenneth are still all at home. Rena is working in Red Deer.

The entire family have been active in 4H both in district and county. Glen has been both Club leader and president of the 4H Council in the Red Deer area. The girls are members of the sewing club, Deborah teaches Sunday school, and is active in sports.

Pony racing is enjoyed by the whole family. In 1971 Glen won the World Championship, Alberta, and Saskatchewan with the chariot.

Leonard has been active in sports, in 1966 he was on the Alberta cross country team, which placed first in the Canadian Open. He is at present working at Whitecourt, but plans to farm.

CHAS. WHITCOMB

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Whitcomb purchased section 1-37-3-W5 in 1906 coming from Montana. They brought 350 horses with them. Feed was scarce that winter of 1907 which was famous for being a hard winter. Mr. Whitcomb lost 75% of his horses. After a couple of years Mr. Whitcomb incorporated his property as the Star Ranching Co. While still owning the land he moved to Innisfail where he conducted the business of rooming house and restaurant. During this time he had several tenants on the land. Finally he sold the land to R.H. Branson who is still the owner. Mr. and Mrs. Whitcomb went back to Montana, later moving to Vancouver, Washington where both passed away. Mr. Whitcomb had been a tea merchant and that business had taken him all over the

world. He had been a safari hunter and had all kinds of trophies and stuffed animals.

The famous criminal, Oscar King, was one of their friends and often visited them. The history of the district has been spiced up somewhat by stories of suspected shady business carried on by them.

JULIUS WILSON by Mrs. J.O. Johnson and Mrs. M.C. Tracy

"Julius Wilson homesteaded NW2-37-3-W5 the summer of 1902. He and Fred Brown came across country from Wheatland, Wyoming, driving their teams and wagons. He built a home, part dug-out, and used either slabs or logs for the top. It seems to me the front faced the east and the doorway was level with the ground.

We, my parents and family, came in December 1902, spending Christmas and New Years in the old Royal Hotel (angling across from the Innisfail Post Office). When father, James, and Robert arrived with the cars of settlers effects and stock, we moved out to Julius' place where we lived until the following summer. They built a granary on the half section east of Markerville, later owned by Tom Sveinson. The summer of 1903 they built the Markerville house - where Andy and Laura Hansen lived - and where we kept a stopping place for settlers coming in.

My parents homesteaded SE2-37-3-W5, James had SE10-37-3-W5, and Bob took land in the New Hill area. Fred Brown homesteaded SW2-37.

The summer of 1903 my sister May and I used to walk over to Ed Pederslie's about half a mile or more east and north of Julius', to get mail once a week. Peter Petersen had a homestead, SW12-37-3-W5, near there at the time too. John O. Johnson, later my husband, carried the mail at one time.

My husband and I farmed in the Markerville area many years before moving to Calgary. We had three children - Vivian (Mrs. Phil Scott), Ralph and Robert."

Mrs. M.C. Tracy writes from California----:

"My former husband, Julius C. Wilson, first acquired this one hundred and sixty acre tract through a government grant. The house he built on it was perhaps one of the newer ones at the time.

We planted crops for a couple of years with the hopes the grain might ripen, but finding that practically a dead loss, due to the early snows, hail etc., we used the crops for fodder. Timothy hay seemed to be the practical stock food so we satisfied ourselves with such plantings. Tomatoes and such vegetables never did ripen so we gave that up.

There was much grazing land and so we turned our stock of cattle and horses out on the range. For most of our livelihood we resorted to the dairy industry on a small scale, as did all our neighbors.

In 1910 we took over the Craig Post Office for perhaps three years, during which time mail was received twice weekly. Something like fifteen families received their mail at this office. I can recall being postmistress, for which I received the fabulous salary of fifty dollars per year!!

We dug four or five wells while we were there, one for the house, one for the barn, and others in different corrals. By using the fence lines between their homes, the Wilson families had a home made telephone system - probably the first such device in the area. Church services were held in the various homes and sometimes in the Happy Hill School. About ten students attended the Craig School. In the latter years of life there, the C.P.R. released some land at three dollars an acre.

Wild game was plentiful and it was not unusual to see fairly large herds of deer, and many wild chickens, as we called them. They were quite large and luscious to the taste. They would light in the grain fields in early fall and with a twelve gauge shot gun, one could bag a half dozen at a time. Wild bobcats were numerous. During berry season people were on the look out for bear. While we had seen only one, others had encountered them in some numbers. Apparently they were more or less harmless, since no harm from them was ever reported. Coyotes were most troublesome at times.

The roads were impassable in the rainy season. We would carry a shovel and other implements to dig out when necessary. Two years before we left we purchased our first automobile - a Chevrolet - in which we carried all sorts of equipment to help dig us out of the mud or snow. Our experiences were many and varied.

The nearest physician was in Innisfail or Red Deer. Births were taken care of by self-styled midwives. If such a birth went wrong a physician was called in but on stormy nights or bad roads, it was only by divine providence that he arrived the next day!

Social life was simple but very pleasant. Most of the residents were young and enjoyed the fun and frolic of dancing. I recall nearly every home boasted an old fashioned organ with large and small mirrors, which organ extended nearly to the ceiling. And with the Edison phonograph with its funnel-like speaker, we thought we had reached the acme of living!

I might add that my former husband, Julius Wilson passed away many years ago, and I have since remarried. My four children were all born on the "old Homestead".

Mrs. Tracy lived in California but is now deceased, as is Mrs. J.O. Johnson.

GUS ZELT

Gus Zelt felt there was no future in his native land so he came from Germany in 1930 to his brother who operated a store in Nisku. In 1932 he bought NW12-37-3-W5. In 1934 he married Alma Dreger of Nisku. Three children were born to them - Gordon, Doreen and Ken. Mr. Zelt later bought SE 11-37-3-W5 from Allan Lechelt in 1949. He also farmed additional property besides the above half section. He sold out in 1958 to Glen Walker and moved to Red Deer where he built up the Blue Pine Motel on highway 2A north. In 1969 he sold the motel and retired to Red Deer city.

Gordon is a mechanic for Prairie Bus Lines; Doreen married Erdman Mundt and lives in Califor-

nia. Ken is married and lives in Edmonton, is a graduate of the University of Alberta receiving his masters degree in science in Fish and Wildlife. He is a government employee as a fish biologist.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Zelt are confirmed members of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Red Deer. While residents in Craig Mr. Zelt served as secretary-treasurer of the church board in Craig Lutheran Church. Since coming to Red Deer he has served in several official capacities in Mount Calvary Lutheran Church.



Cecil McKain and Allan Benson home from hunting.



Home butchering.



Alfred Anderson rabbit hunting.



Back with the spoils.



Charlie McKain and Allan Benson.

DICKSON

THE DICKSON STORY by C.M. Christiansen

It was in the fall of 1902 that a number of men living in Omaha, Nebraska, and confronting the none-too-rosy future of wage-workers in a city, conceived the idea of "pulling stakes", and taking chances with fortune on homesteads in Western Canada, where title to 160 acres of land could be obtained.

In consultation with the Canadian Government agent in Omaha, they were advised to settle in what was then the Territory of Alberta. Furthermore, the agent set aside a tract of land 22 miles west of Innisfail for the purpose of the settlement. The tract was fit for mixed farming, had a fertile soil, which was covered with a dense growth of rich succulent grass. This consideration was the more important because the prospective settlers were of meagre means. Wherefore, it was thought, that cattle raising and milking a few cows provided the easiest and quickest way to get a start.

The venture was decided on, provided that the report of two men of their number, who were to be sent to give the tract a "once over", was favorable. Henry and Jim Larsen were chosen to make the inspection. On their return they did not outright say they had beheld a land flowing "with milk and honey" but they did not hesitate to say "pull stakes".

They had been highly impressed by the sight of cattle grazing on a large meadow in mid-winter. The cattle were sleek and fat, they said. Their conclusion: a piece of pasture land or a good hay meadow.

Actually, what they had seen was a snow covered, water-soaked slough with a pond of water three-four feet deep. Coarse slough grass growing in the pond penetrated the ice. On this grass the cattle grazed. As a piece of farmland the slough was worthless until drained. Of course in Omaha the report was accepted without questioning.

Plans for departure were now expedited. The first move was to organize a congregation of The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was named Pella.

Now began the arduous work of packing household effects; and later loading these, and cattle and implements into freight cars for shipment. Further, there was the painful visiting and saying goodbye to friends and relatives, who grieved our going to a land "of eternal ice and snow". Solicitous women had Homo, Carl's and Laura's boy, six months old, starved to death, or frozen, in a short time. He greatly disappointed them.

Fred Pedersen, John Jensen and Laus Christensen were the first to make the leap. They left Omaha in March. The remainder followed in the latter part of June.

Chris Larsen was in charge of the car of settler's effects of the latter group. Travelling with him was the writer, an illegal passenger. To him this was a great adventure. The car arrived in Calgary on the eve of July 1st. Flags were flying. One wondered why. It had been raining, and a chill wet breeze blew in from the

northwest. Lightly clad, the writer shivered like a dog from the cold. Next morning, still shivering, he was at the railway station, looking down the long stretch of converging steel rails, his thoughts on the home he had left. As he felt then, and had he had the money, he would never have crossed the Bow river at Calgary. But out on the homestead, two weeks later, with Carl, Laura and Homo present, his feelings took a face-about. Since then, for sixty-two years, there is not anything that has been able to drive him from the captivating parklands of Alberta.

By the second week in July, 1903, the newcomers had pitched their tents, each on his respective homestead. By agreement the families with children occupied one section, so the women could be near to each other. Thus on one section were: Carl Christiansen, Fred Pedersen, Henry Larsen and Chris Larsen. On a section one mile west were located: Laus Christensen, John Jensen, and the writer.

Thus was composed the original settlement of Dickson. In all, adults and children, 17 in number.

How well they were fitted and equipped for life on raw homesteads may be gathered from the men's previous occupations. Fred Pedersen was a coal-hauler in Omaha. As a sideline he farmed a few acres on the outskirts of the city. He was by far the best fitted for the venture, as regards knowledge, equipment and stock. John Jensen had farmed some. At the time of departure he was a railway laborer in Omaha. He was supplied with some equipment, among other things, a team of mules. Laus Christensen was a florist and nearing middle age. Carl Christiansen was a clerk in a grocery store. Henry Larsen, quite up in years, was a first class bricklayer. Chris Larsen worked in the U.P. freight sheds.

The flurry and excitement of "pulling stakes" and setting out to an unknown land was now over, and life took on the aspect of a down-to-earth world.

The countryside of the new land was beautiful. The air was crisp and bracing.

It was an isolated district, the nearest settlers being two and three miles distant. What is more, they were English speaking, which forestalled association with them to any extended degree. Roads . . . there were none. But tough trails straggled along the higher land from knoll to knoll, threaded willow bush, and dipped into sloughs and mud holes. Thus, the settlement was insulated by barriers of distance, rough trails, and, to a degree, language and religious persuasion.

An important matter confronted them: to erect log houses for humans, and shelter for cattle, before the winter set in. To cut down, haul, and put logs into place on a wall of a building was a Herculean labor. But by unstinted cooperation of all hands, the houses were erected before cold weather came. As for breaking some land, there was no talk of that the first summer, though Fred Pedersen may have broken a few acres.

In the first week in September work was interrupted for a few days by a snowfall. Oldtimers said that a snowfall at this time was necessary to insure a fine Indian summer. Indeed, this proved to be true.

The weather until mid November neared the ideal. November 15th was an almost idyllic day. But the 16th dawned with a howling snowstorm blowing from the northwest, which lasted a couple of days, and blanketed the ground with a deep layer of snow. And it turned cold. The mercury dipped to 40-45 below the first week of December. One shuddered to think of Christmas, faced with such weather. But then occurred that astonishing weather phenomenon . . . a Chinook. Overnight brash winter changed to mild spring. The effect was electric. Smiles displaced the glum scowl on human faces; cattle roamed far afield; chickadee hopped on the snow in the barnyard. With joy in the heart Christmas was now awaited.

Christmas day dawned with a chinook wafting from the Rockies. What a blessing that! For the whole settlement was invited to Fred Pedersen's home for Christmas dinner . . . this first Christmas Day in our new home.

Mrs. Pedersen had made felicitous preparations: a spruce tree decorated and placed in a corner of the living room. Roast meat, potatoes, vegetables, and what not, heaped the table. Nothing seemed to be lacking. And everyone ate heartily, being in a festive mood.

After dinner the women repaired to the kitchen to wash dishes, talk, and bolster each other's courage. May hap to shed a few tears. The men remained in the living room, lit pipes, rolled cigarettes, and began to puff freely. Soon opinions fairly floated from one to the other on gray clouds of tobacco smoke. Significant questions were broached. What were the prospects in this new land? What could be raised? Would grain ripen? Which would do the better wheat or oats? Could cows be depended on to keep the wolf at bay? Ever so often Fred, characteristically, shook his head, heaved a deep sigh, and offered a grave opinion. His opinions bore great weight. Sombre fears battled nascent hope. Hope held a slight edge in the contest.

Then Carl brought out his box camera, and all repaired to the front of the house, without cap or coat, to have our picture taken. Not even Homo had on a dud. The folks down home had a hard time believing their eyes when they saw the picture. Out-of-doors in the far cold north on Christmas Day, clothed as on a spring day— Quite unbelievable! of course they knew nothing of the magic of a Chinook.

After that a service was held. Some grand old Danish Christmas songs were sung, that lifted sunken spirits. Then Henry Larsen read St. Luke's account of the Nativity, and Fred read a sermon written for a Christmas Day service. Some more songs.

By this time shadows were lengthening. Soon the stars would come out. But Mrs. Pedersen had yet another treat . . . a cup of coffee with tasty Christmas cookies . . . the mark of Danish hospitality.

It was dark before horses were hitched to bob-sleighs, and a final "goodbye and good luck" were said as each visitor climbed into his sleigh, and set out for home. It had been a splendid day . . . this first Christmas in the new land.



Carl Christiansen in his store, 1916.

Three new families arrived in 1904: I.C. Tromburg, Anton Laursen and Rev. J.C. Gundesen. A single woman, Johanne, a sister to Mrs. Laursen came during the summer. Rev. Gundesen arrived in September. He was to serve as pastor of the congregation. He was an earnest, devoted man, poetically inclined. His coming gave heart to the members of the church, for each Sunday he would hold a service in one of the homes. But as a house had to be built for the family before winter set in, his coming entailed a great deal of work.

On a day in February 1905 a long awaited service materialized. A post office was installed in Carl Christiansen's home, with Carl as postmaster and mail to be delivered once a week. By this act Dickson got its name, and was put on the map. Also, about this time, a Local Improvement District was organized, with Laus Christensen elected as the first councillor of the Dickson district.

At this time, too, one of those happenings, which always adds spice to the hum-drum of life had its beginning. As a start John Jensen cast his eyes about. They fell on Johanne, and he found her fair to look upon. She was of the age when summer leaves begin to lose their lustre. John had passed that season. Nonetheless, romance was in the air. John's moon face beamed with delight. His smile was broad. There was no question but a wedding was in the offing. It



Dickson's first Post Office on Carl Christiansen's homestead, 1903. Mrs. Christiansen on horse.

took place in the winter of 1905. For the occasion, John had butchered a steer. Mrs. Gundesen prepared the feast, which was held in her home. She spared nothing to make this a grand affair. Every soul in the settlement was invited, and a few outsiders. Rev. Gundesen tied the matrimonial knot. Undoubtedly, the bride looked trim and spruce toggled up in her very best. The companionship at the horse-shoe-shaped dinner table, in the attic of the house, aroused laughter and rejoicing. It was a feast to be remembered... this first wedding in Dickson. It augured well for the future.

During the period 1906 to 1910 there was an influx of a number of families and individuals. At the Christmas festival in 1906 they said 76 people were present. Arrivals were: by families, T. Thomsen, Lonnebergs, Sontums, M. Nielsens, H. Jorgensens, Enghauges, Westergaards, Nels Jensens, F.S. McKean, P.P. Adamsens, John Petersens, Mrs. M. Christiansen; individuals, M. Eliassen, Ingvard Larsen, Fred Mecklenburg.

Most of these settlers took homesteads to the west of the original settlers, and they were with a few exceptions of Lutheran persuasion. Consequently, the matter of building a church received whole hearted support. Indeed, a site for a church had already been selected by the original settlers. It was located on a ridge west of Fred Pedersen's home place. Its principal advantage was that a church located here could be seen from all over the district without craning one's neck.

So while there was a unanimous desire for a church, the matter of deciding its location was of a different order. Those who had settled to the west wanted it more centrally located. The families living to the east held fast to the location on the ridge.

At a meeting, held to come to an agreement, ended with a split of the congregation into two factions. A rather uncharitable "war of words" ensued, which lasted for about two years. Rev. Gundesen loved peace, and attempted, in the interest of the church, to maintain a strict neutrality, by serving both factions each Sunday.

Meanwhile life in the settlement assumed the aspect of a struggle to wring from the land the wherewithal to survive within the bounds of a household economy. Arduously, with an axe, small patches of land were cleared, a few acres plowed, hay put up, and cows milked twice a day. The cream obtained was churned to butter in stone crocks, and the dairy butter, together with a few eggs, were traded at a store for needed articles. When necessary men bought new overalls, but the women did not get new Sunday dresses. No one went on a holiday.

There were now a number of children of school age in Dickson and the surrounding district. So the demand for a school was raised, a project favored by the married, but opposed by the bachelors. The bachelors lost out as they usually do. The district was organized, and made as large as possible so as to swell the tax roll.

The school was opened for classes in the spring of 1907.

Towards 1907 the factional strife in the church was heading to a climax. For each faction hankered desperately for a church, yet neither had the means to build one. So, as is often the case, finance compelled the burying of the hatchet.

At a meeting in 1907, the factions met and organized a new congregation: The Bethany Lutheran Congregation. Also the location of a church was decided. The site chosen was one mile west of the site originally chosen. It was a more central location. S.P. Lonneberg was elected president. The church became the spiritual, social and recreational centre of the community. But its activities were constrained largely to those of Danish origin, and Danish extraction, which was, at once, its strength and its weakness. But it functioned in this capacity for the following 30-40 years.

In 1909 Carl Christiansen started a store a little to the west of the school. In 1909 a parsonage was built across the road west from the store. The four buildings, the store, the church, the school and the parsonage now composed the nucleus of a hamlet. No one should suppose that Dickson was a dull place to live in. Five annual events were looked forward to with eager anticipation. Preceding Christmas holidays a school concert was offered. During Christmas week, the Sunday school gave an entertainment. Later came a concert of sacred songs by the choir, and the annual supper put on by the Ladies' Aid in the church basement. In the fall the Ladies' Aid held its bazaar, which was not a bargain sale. Articles were sold by auction, and prices sometimes ran quite high. Mr. F.S. McKean was usually the auctioneer. He was a bit tricky. If bidding was lagging, he would declare the sale of a baby's dress to a close-lipped, non-bidding young bachelor. This aroused an outburst of laughter in the crowd, to the embarrassment of the young man. But the Ladies' Aid rejoiced at the money added to their near depleted coffers. Moreover, bidding now revived.

These events were truly enjoyable, and the get-together of friends, neighbors and acquaintances fostered a fine community spirit.

From 1910 on, new arrivals came to the settlement. They were of a calibre better fitted for farming than the original settlers, inasmuch as most of them were experienced farmers, and were better equipped for the purpose. Among their numbers were: C. Lorenson, Chris Morck, Jens and Soren Norre, Fred Mecklenburg, Hans Hansen, H. and M. Heinsen, S.R. Gundesen, Chris and Einar Larsen, Art Kure, G Nissen, J. Hindbo and others.

1910-1920 was not a prosperous period. Farming progressed slowly. P.P. Adamsen, who was well equipped with horsepower, had broken up quite a number of acres.

Lack of horsepower and quick means of clearing land frustrated them. The impact of World War I, with its consequent rise in price of farm products, urged them to greater efforts, but fields were too



Dickson store — Gerlew Andersen in democrat. Anna and Selma Norre, Mae Brown, Edna Adamson, Wilfred Westergaard on horses.

small to raise grain in quantity. Moreover, much of the land was too wet to cultivate. And cattle were of a low quality. The discovery of oil in Turner Valley offered a new source of power, but most farmers were not in a situation to make use of it. Furthermore, transportation was a most difficult problem. At times roads were a hazard to life and limb. Even to the Model T they were an abomination, against which it oft rebelled, which caused many a good upright man to break at least one commandment.

The first step taken to overcome difficulties was the organization of a drainage system, with the aid of the Provincial Government. This act, despite detractors, achieved the temporal salvation of the Dickson community. Great credit goes to Fred Mecklenburg, with Louie Adamsen as a close second, for the many, many years they gave of their time and care to keep the ditches in serviceable condition.

Digging the ditches cost money. Lots of it. Wherefore, farmers within the drainage district could not rest on their oars. But the sight of excess water flowing in the ditches was an impetus to greater efforts at clearing land. This arduous task was, however, made the easier and quicker by the use of a brush cutter, a contraption that was the brain child of Jens and Soren Norre.

Cattle had increased in number, and in quality greatly improved. This offered Dickson farmers an additional source of revenue. Clearing the land and breaking the sod went on apace. Though most breaking was as yet done with horses, it seems probable that an era was ushered in at this time that can be characterized as one of skunk gasoline and strong steel plows pulled by second hand Hart Parr and Waterloo Boy tractors.

At about this time a skating rink was erected close to the church for the enjoyment of young and old. It was built by the joint effort of the young men of the community. It was operated as a community project under the surveillance of the church.

The Great Depression had hit. But life had to go on and there was no respite to the demands of teenagers. At this time there were a number of young people of high school age in Dickson. The church took upon itself to solve the problem. Rev. Nyholm obtained assistance from the Department of Education, which made it possible for the school to get started. A grant of \$2.25 a day was received from the Department and

tuition of \$40.00 a year per pupil charged. Classrooms were provided in the church basement. Miss Elsa Gundesen was the first teacher. Her devotion to the cause may be gauged by her offering to teach without pay.

So many were the applications for admission to the high school by prospective students, from far and near, that a second teacher Miss Margaret Nissen, was engaged. But now the question of accommodation for the girls attending the school confronted the congregation. This was a difficult problem, coming as it did right at the depth of the depression, when wheat was twenty cents a bushel. But good-will and strong muscles were in abundant supply. So by the generous cooperation of members of the congregation, all of whom donated their time and labor, a dormitory was erected and finished. It was opened for occupancy in 1933. A matron was engaged, and living costs were held to a minimum, which was not the least of its attractions.

Boys attending the high school were left, like the birds, to shift for themselves. But they were energetic and resourceful. They found both food and shelter.

The supreme value of the high school at this time lay in this: It enabled ambitious boys and girls to acquire a high school education at a low cost, who otherwise would not have had the advantage of such training. The school operated successfully for many years. Standards, in all respects, were kept at a high level. Many of its graduates now occupy positions requiring skill and responsibility. But in the end the congregation found the cost of maintaining the school too great to bear. It was then taken over by the Department of Education, and incorporated in the Dickson school in 1938, at which time a new school building was erected. Later this building was enlarged.

As has been said, the depression struck a staggering but not a fatal, blow. For a while men walked about crestfallen. Even the red-blooded young blades wore an air of indifference, which bewitching smiles of fair lassies in short skirts and high-heeled shoes could not dissipate. A wedding had become a rare occurrence in Dickson. The mellow ring of the bridal bell had all but been forgotten. It would, therefore, appear an inauspicious time for Dan Cupid to pay the community a visit. But the irascible rogue did. And mightily, he drew his bow and sent an arrow into the air. It pierced none other than Homo Christiansen . . . Homo, Dickson's truest son, a young man of



Dickson — 1918.

sterling character and integrity, who lived his whole life within Dickson's confines, and gave without stint to its advancement. He was seriously wounded. But to his rescue came Miss Christine Nissen, a petite, demure, amiable young woman, a daughter of G. Nissen. With marvelous skill she healed the gaping wound. They were married in 1933, and settled down in Dickson where for many years they were one of the mainstays of the community.

Recovery from the depression proved to be as painful as was the depression itself. The economy did not pick up. Markets were over stocked with farm products. But farmers needed money with which to square debts, pay taxes, buy second hand tractors and trucks, and stave off the wolf.

Life went on. Farmers, bought, sold hogs and cattle, broke land, denounced low prices, doctored Model T's with hay wire, grumbled at unspeakable roads, women kept the home fires burning, washed dirty clothes, gossipped, darned socks, thumbed the worn and soiled pages of the western bible, Eaton's thrice-blessed catalogue, drove to Ladies' Aid in lumber wagons or in battered flivers with a deplorable penchant for expensive gasoline; the children went to school, winked at the three R's and confabbed in English.

In Dickson the language question had been a matter of concern for more than a generation. In time English became the dominant language. Not so in the church . . . the seat of power and authority in the community. A conflict ensued as English gained in ascendancy. Sufficient to say that in the early fifties, the Danish language lost caste, and thereafter all church services were held in the English language.

The change of language in the church services had far reaching consequences. An element of the membership now came to the fore that was more interested in the welfare of its children, than it was in the needs of hypothetical Danish immigrants.

As a result, boys and girls from far and near were organized into youth's clubs, whose emphasis is on the training of youth for good citizenship. Clubs of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs, Brownies sprang up, supervised by devoted men and women of the community. Friday nights are busy nights in Dickson now when as many as one hundred boys and girls assemble in the Scouts' Hall, and the old school house to receive instruction in useful arts.

In addition, there is the Fish and Game Association.

In the early fifties the district seemed in a fair state of material well-being. Crops were good. The cold war kept prices fairly high. A good time for The Calgary Power to extend its power lines into the district. Immediately that was done, the Dickson people, as at the sounding of a trumpet, gave themselves over to the dominion of two monstrous power moguls: the internal combustion engine, and electricity, both votaries of the god of speed. Gasoline motors had, of course, been in use for many years, the first being used to saw wood. But with improvements the gasoline motor developed into a social and

economic force that now dictates to a large extent our way of life. Automobiles compelled grading, gravelling, and even paving of the roads. The rubber-tired tractor drove horses from the field, at which horses no doubt were pleased.

Electricity was as ruthless, and contemptuous, of the horse and buggy way of life as the gasoline motor. But it acted in a manner that made the housewife smile, and grandmother think she was born too soon. Coal stoves it dragged from the kitchen, swept the oil lamp from wall and table, brushed the corn broom from the hall, compelled instalment of bath and toilet, and ousted furnaces with an ash pan.

Swanky Fords, Chevs, Pontiacs now graced the parking space at the church on a Sunday morn, having crowded out the battered Model T's and outdated jalopies that occupied the space twenty years before. So Dickson now exhilarates in the flare and glitter of a wholly modern atmosphere.



Cutting brush, L to R.: Jens Norre, Tom Dahl, Robert Olsen, Evelyn Petersen, Herman Andreasen, William Olsen, Lawrence Petersen.

The Dickson community has become what it is by the cooperation of and contribution to its welfare by all who have lived within its borders. However, one cannot gauge what each has contributed, though each has contributed something, no matter how small the amount.

But in this regard two of the original settlers deserve special mention. They are Carl Christiansen and Fred Pedersen. For over forty years they lived in the district and died here, still wearing the harness. All these years they contributed to the district, one would think until it hurt. But it didn't hurt. It was their life.

Fred was active in the church. For many years he was president of the congregation, superintendent of the Sunday School, and leader of the choir until his death.

Carl, too, was active in church work. For years he taught a Bible class, served on church councils, gave

liberally to church funds, donated the church bell, which for forty years he rang on Sunday mornings. And as storekeeper, many are the men he helped out when the season's crop was lean.

The years have melted the one into the other. But vastly different is the Dickson today from what it was that Sunday morning in 1907, when Carl pulled the rope of the church bell for the first time, and sent its peal shivering out over the virgin meadows, and tree covered plain.

So ends the first sixty-two years of the Dickson story.

DICKSON CHURCH HISTORY

The congregation was formed in the home of Carl Christiansen in Omaha, Nebraska in February 1903. This was upon the advice of their pastor, Rev. G.B. Christiansen who was concerned about their spiritual welfare.

The first Sunday School was started by Rev. Gundersen in 1904.

The first confirmation service was held on May 28, 1905. One Danish girl, Christine Gundersen, one Norwegian Ted Thompson and one Swedish boy, Thorborg Madsen were confirmed. A special event at the same service was the baptism of Henry Larsen's little daughter, Clara. We believe this was the first Danish Lutheran baptism in Alberta.

The first Christmas eve was spent in the Henry Larsen home. Henry had been working in Calgary as a bricklayer and had made good wages. He was going to show them that he wasn't coming home empty-handed so he brought all the supplies for a good Christmas for his family and his friends, from Calgary. They were all invited to his home for Christmas Eve. The friends present were Fred Pedersen and his wife, Carl Christiansen and his wife and children, L.B. Christiansen and his wife and Chris Larsen and his English wife. The bachelors were also present, Chris Christiansen, John Jensen, Hans Buck and Hans Madsen from Markerville. A pig was butchered for Christmas and with all of the good things that he had brought with him from Calgary there was plenty of everything. The Larsens had brought their furniture with them from Omaha and it looked very elaborate in the rough surroundings. They were all in high spirits and they were almost as happy as they were when they had all gathered together in Omaha.

After the dinner was eaten and the dishes washed the Christmas tree was brought out and the children clapped their hands while the candles were lit on the tree. All present then clasped each other's hands and they made a circle around the tree. As they walked they sang the Christmas carols. At the end of a wonderful evening, Henry Larsen took the old Bible down from the shelf and read the Christmas story, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill to all men". While the candles were burning down, their thoughts wandered off to their many friends and relations in Omaha. The evening closed with an extra cup of coffee.

On Christmas day they were all invited for a Christmas dinner at the home of Fred Pedersen.

Dagny Dyrholm, nee Gundersen, told the following: We had many wonderful times. Some of the outstanding ones in my memory were when the whole neighborhood gathered at our place, usually on a cold frosty night in December, to make decorations for the Sunday School Christmas tree. I can still remember a long table surrounded by women and some men laughing and talking as they made paper flowers, stars and chains etc. Those less deft with their fingers enjoyed a visit in some corner with friends. We little people played and chewed the gum which held the petals together on the wiry stems. Occasionally father would rise and read a story or poem to us.

While the older folks and the very young spent the evening thus, the young folk cleared the snow off the lake, built a bonfire and had a merry time skating. Sometimes they would come into the kitchen and make toffee. Of course the evening would close with lunch and devotions.

We always looked forward to the Sunday School and First of July Picnics. In those days they were held at our place. It was an all day affair and the ladies brought boxes of food. Ice cream, candy and lemonade were sold from our little garden house which we called Uncle Tom's Cabin.

After dinner the young men played baseball while the young ladies looking their prettiest in their white dresses sat around and clapped for each triumphant score. The Jensen brothers added a delightful contribution by building a man-powered merry-go-round with a seat for two at the end of the heavy planks.

It was also at these picnics that many of us received our first ride in a car. Mr. Dan Morkeberg of Markerville brought his family in the first car owned by anyone in that or the Dickson area.

Two organizations that deserve special mention are The Young Peoples' Society, in later years to be called The Luther League and the Ladies' Aid now called The Lutheran Church Women.

The Young Peoples' Society was organized in 1907 with Fred Pedersen as president, Mary Pedersen as vice-president, Chris Christiansen as secretary and Katherine Lonneberg as treasurer.

An early project was for each to plant a tree around the school. They also provided a baptismal font for the church and they helped fix up the basement.

The Lutheran Church Women have worked and supported the needs of the local church and community and have supported the benevolences of the church. It would be impossible to estimate the number of quilts, layettes, kits and boxes of repaired used clothing that the ladies have sent to needy countries and distress areas. Many bazaars and suppers have been held to raise funds. One also thinks of the many meals and lunches the ladies have served to conventions, church and community affairs.

HISTORY OF BETHANY'S PASTORS:

J.C. Gundersen	Dec. 18, 1904 - Apr. 4, 1909
Rev. Magnussen	Apr. 9, 1909 - Apr. 26, 1914
J.C. Gundersen	Apr. 1914 - July 1915
H.P.A. Andersen	July 4, 1915 - July 24, 1921

Christian Sorensen	Mar. 19, 1922 - Oct. 28, 1923
N. Bentsen	May 9, 1926 - Jan. 1929
Paul Nyholm	July 3, 1929 - Sept. 21, 1935
J. Ravnkilde Moller	Oct. 22, 1936 - Dec. 1, 1939
Peter Thorslev	June 30, 1940 - Oct. 1, 1944
Einer Olsen	Oct. 1945 - July 1951
Einer Romer	Sept. 20, 1951 - Aug. 1, 1952
Ole Larsen	Oct. 25, 1952 - Nov. 5, 1958
Carl Hansen	July 26, 1959 - Dec. 29, 1969
Hillerup Rasmussen	Sept. 17, 1969 - Apr. 1972
Wayne Josephsen	July 1972 -

SOME EXCERPTS FROM CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS

January 5, 1907 — Moved and carried to accept five acres of the N.W. corner of section 36, for the purpose of building a church and cemetery if Mr. M. Eliason would donate same.

January 6, 1907 — Moved and carried to accept land from Mr. Eliason.

January 10, 1908 — Annual Meeting — President Lonneberg gave his report dwelling particularly on the building of the church and parsonage. All twenty-one of the settlement men were present and adopted a constitution.

January 15, 1908 — Special Meeting on Church Building — President Lonneberg and Mr. P. Adamson would get logs and get same sawed if the congregation would pay the expense. It was decided to start a subscription list. It was decided to get stones for the church and parsonage.

April 1908 — President Lonneberg reports lumber is sawed and reminds the congregation about paying for it.

January 10, 1910 — Tenders for the church building were opened. Lonneberg and Lundgren bid \$432.00 and Henry Larsen bid \$424.00. Larsen's bid was accepted.

January 19, 1911 — Annual Meeting — The English Language had its entrance when a meeting was decided to be conducted in English. Pastor Magnussen was guaranteed a salary of \$350.00 with the understanding that he could not expect hay from the members.

1915 — Hitching rails were erected for horses.

1922 — The church was raised to install concrete basement walls nine feet high.

1928 — Jens Dixon was given permission to use the basement for teaching school. An English service was held once a month.

1936 — Insisted that the new minister speak two languages.

1937 — Lonneberg contracted to build a wing on the church for \$1200.00.

1940 — Decided to install electric lights.

1945 — Sunday School teachers decided to continue in English only.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF BETHANY

1903 — Pella Danish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation organized at Omaha, Nebraska.

1904 — Reverend J.C. Gundesen, the first pastor, arrives at Dickson.

1907 — First choir organized under the leadership of Fred Pedersen. Land for cemetery was dedicated on October 13. Young Peoples' Society organized with Fred Pedersen as president and Chris Christiansen as secretary.

1908 — Missionary Society started with thirty-three members on April 9.

1911 — House of worship finished and dedicated. Cost of building \$424.00.

1920 — Minister's yearly salary was \$350.00 plus an offering at Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

1928 — Jens Dixon given permission to use basement for teaching school.

1929 — 25th anniversary of the founding of the congregation. English services were held once a month.

1930 — Dickson High School started in basement with Miss Elsa Gundesen as teacher.

1932 — Bible School started at Camrose. Pastor Nyholm taught there during the winter months.

1933 — Sylvan Lake Bible Camp started. Later the camp was turned over to The Western Canada District of the Lutheran Church. Pastor Bentsen donated ten acres of land for a picnic ground and a girls' dormitory.

1937 — West wing built on the church.

1948 — Parsonage built.

1954 — 50th anniversary of congregation.

1956 — Dormitory closed.

1963 — Dickson High School Association received title to Dickson School.

1964 — All property of High School Association transferred to Bethany Lutheran Church and the association was dissolved. New organ purchased. 60th anniversary of congregation.

1967 — Decision made to build a new church.

1968 — Dedication of new church on June 23.

1971 — Cairn unveiled on site of old church on April 25.

These and other incidents are only part of the rich legacy that we have inherited from the Dickson



Honoring senior citizens at the Dickson church — L. to R.: Nels Kolding, Mr. Mortensen, Mrs. N. Norgaard, M. Heinsen, Mrs. C. Sorensen, C. Sorensen, A. Laursen, T. Thomsen, Mrs. M. Nielsen, Pastor N. Bentsen, ? , Mrs. Marie Christiansen, Mrs. N. Westergaard, Mrs. J. Madsen, Mrs. F. S. McKean, J. Madsen, F. S. McKean, L. Christensen. Kneeling: M. Nielsen, P. Adamsen, Mrs. L. Christensen, Mrs. A. Laursen, Mrs. Mortensen.



Dickson congregation 50th anniversary — 1954.

pioneers. The same bell that Carl Christiansen donated to the original church still issues its call to worship each Sunday morning from the steeple of our new church. The altar picture from the old church was preserved and framed by Lorenz Lung and hangs over the door into the sanctuary.

A beautiful stone cairn marking the site of the old church was built and dedicated on April 25, 1971. Art Kure designed and spearheaded the building of the cairn.

DICKSON SCHOOL NO. 1452

The first board was composed of Henry Larsen, J.P. Tromburg and Anton Laursen. The district was named "Kingo" after the Danish poet, but the Dept. of Education thought the "o" was an "s" and gave the name "Kings" to the district. The first minutes are dated Jan. 23, 1906.

Furnishings were ordered to the amount of \$190.00.

H. Matson built the school for \$823.00, on a lot 196 feet from the S.W. corner of sec. 1-36-3-W5. The taxes for the year were five cents per acre. Salary paid in 1908 was \$60.00 per month.

Teachers up until 1922 were: Miss Elmhurst, Miss L.A. Wilkins, Mr. E.C. Coupland, Miss P. Gilles, Mr. Ernest, Mr. McGregor, Miss Alberta James, Mr. L.C. Chadsey, Miss Lillian Husband, Mr. C.M. Christiansen, Miss Elsa Gundersen, Mr. Charles McCleary.

The name of the school was changed to Dickson in 1922, to be the same as the post office.

In 1938 a new school was built with J.C. Johannson as head carpenter. The old school continued to operate for several years due to lack of space in the new one.

The Dickson school was closed in 1959 and all children are bussed to Spruce View. The Dickson school building is now used by Bethany Lutheran

church for Sunday School rooms. The original building is operated by the Dickson Fish and Game Assoc.

THE DICKSON HIGH SCHOOL DORMITORY by George Nissen Sr.

As others have described the beginning and first years of operation of the high school, I shall confine my remarks to the Dormitory and the very essential service that it performed during the years of its operation. Since I served as a dormitory board member during the entire time that it was in operation, I deem it a privilege to relate its history which played such a vital role in the Dickson community as well as in the lives of the young people from out-lying areas who were thus enabled to receive an education.

As much interest in the High School was shown from many parts of Alberta, it became evident that there was a very definite need for boarding facilities, especially for young girls.

Five acres of land situated one half mile south of the Dickson store was generously donated for the purpose of building a dormitory, by Rev. Bentsen (a former pastor of Dickson). The high school association had to be incorporated to legally own the property. Pastor Nyholm also spearheaded this new venture. Mr. Holm-Miller, a Danish architect and father-in-law of Pastor Nyholm made the blueprints and supervised much of the building. His wife became the first Dormitory Matron. As it all took place during the dirty thirties, cash was a very scarce item. But even if money was lacking there were many willing hearts and most of the work was done by volunteers, both men and women. One man was hired, John Pedersen, a carpenter from Denmark. He received the magnificent wage of \$1.50 per day. In spite of all the donated labour the building cost \$1500.00 and we had no way of paying the bills until Carl Christiansen lent the Association the money at

4%, repayment to be made whenever possible. It was 15 years before the debt was paid off.

As soon as the Dorm was ready to be opened, all the rooms were filled with young girls who were very happy to have this home away from home. In fact they were too thankful to be critical of the primitive furnishings — homemade tables and straw mattresses. Some rules were necessary, also a boarding club and house government with an elected house committee were formed. All students were welcomed that wished to live there regardless of nationality, color or creed. Through the years many girls made the dormitory their home and for many it was one of the happiest experiences of their lives.

Later the building was enlarged to accommodate high school classes that were held there until the new school was built at Dickson, when it again was used strictly as a Dormitory. At that time arrangements were made for the boys to board at the dorm and room with nearby neighbors.

Beside Mrs. Holm-Miller the following are some who served so well as Matron and housemother, Miss Dagny Gundersen, Mrs. Svensen, Miss Margarethe Nissen, Miss Jenny Hindbo, Miss Thora Thompson, Miss Lilley Tunin, Miss Olsen, Mrs. Hendricksen, Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Moheim.



Dickson dormitory.

The girls and their welfare was always of great concern to me and therefore, I always felt as though they were my adopted family and we still meet and exchange happy memories from those days.

I was privileged to be invited to the dorm to Christmas parties for which I supplied the Christmas tree and a goose. Another enjoyable annual event was the June party, held at our farm, which consisted of swimming and boating in the Raven River, entertainment and a campfire. Contrary to rules this sometimes went on to a rather late hour.

Thus the years passed until higher operational costs necessitated the Rocky Mountain School Division to take over the financial operation of the dorm. Later we became part of the Red Deer School Division. In the meantime many changes had taken place — more high schools were built in the area and

school buses were used increasingly. As a result Grade XII was no longer taught at Dickson and the dormitory was closed. Later this property was sold to Mr. Art Kure who has made a beautiful retirement home out of it for himself and his daughter. So ends the story of the dormitory but it would be impossible to evaluate the benefit derived from its existence by scores of young people.

DICKSON FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION

The Dickson Fish and Game was organized by Soren Norre and a group of conservation minded sportsmen March 5, 1948. The executive elected at this first meeting were, President Soren Norre, vice-president Thorvald Jorgensen, secretary Bill Sloan, executive members were Elmer Kure, Jens Norre, Calvin Larsen and Clifford Adamson.

The establishment of a pheasant area and the stocking of these areas was one of the club's first projects. Since the first release on the farm of Art Kure, three more releases were made in an attempt to establish a huntable population of these fine birds.

The Dickson Fish and Game, along with some 120 other conservation minded clubs, make up the Alberta Fish and Game Association, who subscribe to the philosophy that all resources of the province belong to all the people and that conservation means the wise use of these resources so they may be enjoyed by present and future generations.

Although the club's projects and activities are many, one of the more important is the recognition that the basic needs of our fish and wildlife are suitable habitat, this means the protection of our streams from siltation, pollution and bank cover removal, the preservation of the natural cover and the planting of new cover for our fish, birds and wildlife. We have felt that predator control is an important part of conservation both for the protection of the wildlife and the farmers' livestock.

Members of the club helped the local Biologist in locating, testing and stocking fish in ponds and lakes in the area, the securing of picnic sites, campgrounds, and access for the public to use them, have all been part of the club's aims to promote and serve the recreational needs of the local and traveling public. At the present time the club is promoting the building of a dam with the subsequent stocking of fish when completed.

The club initiated the first and only Ladies Fish and Game in the province also a Junior club, these have since been disbanded. The club sponsors the Cubs and Scouts. Its members have presented programs in the school during wildlife week in April and are at the present time active in the Hunter Training Programme, both locally and in the surrounding area.

One of the hi-lites of the year for the club is the annual Fish Fry which serves over 300 people, a supper that is prepared by the men. The first one was held in 1959 and was organized by Thorvald Jorgensen, Pete Lauretzen, Oscar Sorenson, Gordon Christiansen and Elmer Kure.

Certificates of Merit and many trophies have been given to members of the club for their efforts in the field of conservation and education.

The membership in the Dickson Fish and Game has grown from 60 members to the present 160, with members serving on the regional and provincial levels. Meetings are held the second Monday each month.

Presidents of the club from 1948 to date, 1973 are listed in order: Soren Norre, Elmer Kure, Aage Larsen, Russ Lonneberg, Bill Williams, Harold Rhodes, William Thompson, Gerald Schmidek, Harry Jensen and Dennis Hindbo.

Secretary-treasurers to date are: Bill Sloan, Laurie Lonneberg, Gordon Christiansen, Viggo Anderson, Aage Larsen, Elmer Kure, Bill Williams, Harry Jensen, Colin Kure, Dennis Hindbo and Russ Lonneberg.

JUBILEE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

A meeting to organize a public library was held March 16, 1955. Mr. Chris Christiansen offered to act as chief librarian and a committee was formed of the following - Mrs. Nelson (school), Mrs. G. Tronnes (Spruce View Ladies Club), Mr. E. Larsen (F.U.A.), Mrs. Hans Hindbo (church), and Mrs. E.S. McDonald (Raven).

Mr. Carl Christiansen provided temporary space in his store until such time as there was room available in the basement of the Dickson School. Donations of cash and books were received. All community clubs were asked to send a representative and to help with repairing books, etc. The government gave a grant of \$200 - Alberta Jubilee Grant - as Alberta was celebrating 50 years as a province. Mr. C. Christiansen went to Calgary to purchase \$100 worth of books. There were seventy membership cards sold.

Later on, regional libraries were formed. When the new Spruce View School opened, the library facilities were moved there.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE ADAMSEN FAMILY by Eileen Lonneberg

Peter Adamsen was born in Denmark in 1858. In 1880 he married Marie Fredrickson. Four children were born to them while they lived there, Pete, Anna, Louis, and Sena.

In 1892 they emigrated to America. The family's first home was in Emmetsburg, Iowa. While there three more children were added to the household — Elsie, John and Laurina. Being convinced that farming in Mississippi was just what they were looking for, they packed all their belongings into one box car and went to a small place called Wasbluff Stop about sixty miles south of Jackson. This was in the winter and when spring came, they found themselves in the swamp area of Mississippi. They planted their cotton and made friends with their new neighbors who were mostly negroes.

In less than three months they had encountered many troubles but worst of all was that they were getting sick. One by one they came down with typhoid malaria, six of them were near death when a Christian

doctor came to care for them. They had no money to pay a doctor but Dr. Ray moved them from their home in the swamp to a Health Resort Hotel which was built beside a mineral spring. He cared for them until they had all regained their health. Dr. Ray showed his Christian love by informing the Woodman's Lodge in Ruthuen, Iowa of the desperate needs of the Adamsen family. The club raised enough money to bring them back to Ruthuen, Iowa. They worked for a farmer a few years then they moved to Bowbells, North Dakota in 1900. They stayed there for six years. Their oldest daughter was married there and moved west to Washington State.

Mr. Adamsen wasn't too happy with the prairies, it was hard to get enough feed for their cattle. Then they heard of the wonderful place called Dickson. There was homestead land, good land, and also they heard of the group from Nebraska that had settled and had established a church. Through Mr. Adamsen's hardships in Mississippi he had learned to trust in God so he was now interested in moving where there was a church as well as land, so in November 1906 they came to Innisfail. Five box cars were their total belongings. This included machinery, cows, horses, hay and a few household goods. They unloaded everything, except the carload of hay which went astray so the first winter their cattle had no hay. Through the bush and across rivers and creeks, the Medicine River gave them the most trouble. As they went down the steep bank the tongue on the wagon broke. Their first home was actually in Kevisville which is now Bill Potter's place. Sena and Elsie were of confirmation age so they came to Pastor Gundesen for instruction. Sena, Elsie, Helena Schmidt, Christine Larsen, Myrtle Sandburg and Esther Lonneberg were the first class confirmed in Dickson Church. It was so far to come to Dickson for church service that they decided to move closer. The first winter was spent in a log house which was built on Mitch Jurasevich's place, then with the help of Mr. Lonneberg and Louis they built a house and barn on what is now Louis's place. By this time Louis was thinking it was time to get a place of his own so Tena Lonneberg and Louis were married and took over the farm. Pete had already met and married a nice girl, Hannah Christiansen, and settled on a homestead in Kevisville. Louis and Tena were the first bride and groom in the Dickson Church. Then in 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Adamsen Sr. went to Washington for a while where their oldest daughter lived but in about a year they returned to Calgary and bought a house. Later they traded the house to Ed Hansen for a quarter in Dickson which is now Aage Jensen's place. Mr. Adamsen built a barn on this land, the Danish style, where the cows live at one end and the family at the other.

In 1918 John Adamsen got the west half of 35-35-3-5 from the Soldier Settlement. Mr. Adamsen and John then built a house and barn on this land and lived there until 1923 when John got married and did the farming. Mr. Adamsen then moved to Dickson and built the little house Odin Larsens now live in.

Mrs. Adamsen passed away on May 27, 1928 at the age of seventy years. Mr. Adamsen found it lonely without his devoted wife so he spent part of his remaining years with Louis and Tena. He passed away July 1931 at the age of seventy-three.

PETER AND MARIE ADAMSEN'S CHILDREN

Pete Adamsen — Was born in North Schleswig, Denmark in 1882. He married Hannah Christiansen in 1910. Besides having a homestead in Kevisville, he purchased a farm a mile north of Dickson, now Arne Kjearsgaard's place. Pete and Hannah had four daughters: Edna, Edith, Mae, and Sylvia. Pete Adamsen passed away in 1955 and Mrs. Adamsen in 1970.

Anna Adamsen — Was born in Denmark in 1885. She married Louis Rasmussen and they made their home in Everett, Washington. Mrs. Rasmussen passed away in 1952.

Louis Adamsen — Was born in Denmark in 1887. He married Katherina Lonneberg in 1911. They lived one mile east of Dickson, homesteaded land in Kevisville for many years. They had three children — Francis, Clifford and Beatrice. Clifford owns the home place, married Eileen Hill. They have one daughter.

Mrs. Adamsen passed away in 1964. Mr. Adamsen in 1970.

Sena Marie Adamsen — Was born in Denmark in 1890. She married Ed Hansen in 1911 and they made their home in Calgary and had six children — Marjorie, Lydia, Marion, Eddie, Charles, and Myrtle. Both now have passed away.

Elsie Adamsen — Was born in Emmetsburg, Iowa, in 1893. She married William Hansen in 1911. Sena and Elsie had a double wedding. Bill and Elsie made their home in Edmonton.

John Adamsen — Was born in Emmetsburg, Iowa, in 1895. After serving in World War I he returned to the farm and in 1923 he married Helga Jessen. They had one daughter, Eileen, Mrs. Russell Lonneberg. They have five children — Marilyn, Clarence, Lois, Joanne and Wayne.

In 1959 John sold his farm to Russel and built a small house on the northeast corner of the property where they enjoyed their retirement until John passed away in 1970. His widow still resides in their retirement home.

CAPTAIN ANDERSEN

Captain and Mrs. Andersen came to Dickson in 1927 from Singapore and bought the Lars C. Larsen place. He had been captain of a ship freighting goods between Singapore and Bangkok for several years.

They sold out to Mr. Nels Lind in 1931 and moved to Vancouver where Mr. Andersen bought a fishing boat.

GERLEW ANDERSEN

Gerlew Andersen, wife Sofia and two children, Victor and Leona came to Dickson in 1922. They purchased the L.B. Christensen farm. They sold to Mr. Alexander and moved to Harlan, Iowa. Mr. Andersen died in 1970. His widow still resides in the U.S.A.

PETER BERGHS

Peter and Christina Berghs and family emigrated from Belgium to Canada in 1952. They resided in Raymond, Alberta until they moved to the Dickson area in 1967.

Their apiary "Three Star Honey" is located west of Dickson on the old Norre place. Beekeeping was a new experience for them, as Peter was a truck driver in the old country.

They have five children. Two of the boys have followed in their father's footsteps and keep bees also. Rene and family live in Wetaskiwin. Marcel married a local girl, Hennie Roest, and they live west of Spirit River. Alda (Labrique) and family live in Edmonton. Elsa married Orla Nielson.

PAUL CAROE - by P. Caroe

I arrived in Dickson not quite 25 years old, straight from Denmark except for a weeks stay in Montreal. I stayed with my sister and brother-in-law, Ellen and John Lund until the middle of November when I moved to a farm I had bought from Peter Adamsen Sr. on July 25. He couldn't move out until he had built a house on 35-35-3-W5. Later I bought 80 acres of the SE quarter from him. The north east corner of my farm was just across the road from Carl Christiansen's Store and from the Parsonage.

When I bought the farm there were 3 buildings: one combined stable and living quarters; a plain square frame building 1-1/2 stories which by a wooden partition was divided into a stable for 4 horses, 4 cows and living quarters, one room downstairs, one upstairs, no inside finishing just the bare walls with the 2 by 6's showing. The second building was a long chicken house which I never fully used, never having more than 20 or 30 hens. The third house was a poorly built shed used for tools, granary, etc.

I lived in the stable-house for a couple of years until I built a small living house.

The church had been built some years. When I got to Dickson Pastor Gundesen was the minister, but he also worked his farm which was situated south of Louis Adamsen's and east of John Lund's place. A few years later Pastor Andersen came to Dickson.

I kept a diary for the first 3 years I was in Dickson. Reading this diary I am absolutely amazed how much the neighbors helped each other in the daily work. We all exchanged work at threshing and woodsawing time. In going through the diary I hardly find a day where somebody didn't come and do some disking, harrowing, picking roots and so forth, or where I would not be out some place helping, building, cutting and hauling wood etc.

On Sundays everybody of course went to Church. I was organist from April 1916 to about 1920. We had quite a good choir with Fred Pedersen as leader and had choir practice once a week in the homes. I also gave music lessons during the winter. As far as I remember I taught the children of Henry Larsen, John Petersen, Dan Morkeberg in Markerville, Thomas Thomsen and others. I think it was about 1922 that I started the first Dickson Scout Troop with Richard Pedersen, Wilfred Lonneberg, Wilfred

Westergaard, Verner Nielsen and 2 or 3 more. We had a very successful camping trip to the Clearwater River foothills. We went on horseback with a couple of pack horses about 40 or 50 miles and lived mostly off the country on fish, wild berries, etc.

Among other jobs I held until I left Dickson was Commissioner of Oaths, Notary Public, Official Auditor, sec-treas. and supervisor of the "Dickson Drainage District" and in the later part of my stay, sec-treas. of the Dickson School District. In 1916 I was nominated to run for Councillor of the Municipal District but was beaten by McKean by a vote of 13 to 17.

I enjoyed the time I spent in Dickson but it wasn't quite enough to keep me busy and satisfied so in the last years I would take time off and have somebody look after the farm. I went to Southern Alberta working for the C.P.R. irrigation and finally decided to sell the place and since then I have been engaged in engineering work and surveying first in Alberta, North West Territories and B.C. and the last 20 years in Ontario.

I often look back to the years I spent in Dickson and what impresses me most is the feeling you had of absolute trust in your neighbors and the fact that you did not have to ask for any needed help. It would just naturally come when needed; for example: we had a pretty good baseball team in 1916 and at a game in Kevisville, which we won 18-11 I had the misfortune to break my leg, just above the ankle, sliding into a base. Not only was it arranged that Dan Morkeberg would come to Dickson in his car to pick me up and take me to the Innisfail Hospital but while I stayed there for 7 days I had no worries about my farm and my chores etc. Everything was looked after perfectly. When the fierce Influenza epidemic struck us later, practically everybody was very sick so the few of us that did not catch it had to go from morning to night, from farm to farm to be sure that all the most important chores had been looked after.

The people I visited most in Dickson beside my sister were John Petersen, the 3 Adamsons, Fred Pedersens, Carl Christiansen, Dohlman and Morkebergs who in 1916-17 had Prince Erik of Denmark staying with them. He came along with Dan Morkeberg the time he took me to the hospital. Other old timers I knew well and remember clearly are Mads Westergaard and sons Nels and Einar who came to my place quite often. Lonneberg who, while I was there, built a concrete house on his farm south of Dickson; Nels Westergaard Sr. Mads' father, who, later when I had an old model T Ford, often had me take him to the doctor in Innisfail. There were very few cars in Dickson at that time. I think Henry Larsen was the first; then Carl Christiansen and then me. All were model T Ford touring cars and believe me it was a cold trip to Innisfail - 22 miles at 20-30 degrees below zero and no car heater. I used to take a brick heater along for my feet and a hot water bottle for my lap.

I was preferred as driver, by Mr. Westergaard Sr.

who said, it was because I could back up just as good as go ahead, and that really impressed him!

Fishing and hunting was quite good especially out towards the foothills; John and Louis Adamsen and I used to go out there on a hunting and fishing trip in the fall and generally had good luck. Small game was plentiful. I never had to go further than my stubble field, one quarter mile away from my house to get all the nice plump prairie chickens I would want and some years there were so many snowshoe rabbits it was almost incredible. John Adamsen and I went out one day down by the Red Deer River and as far as I remember we got well over a hundred which we shipped to Calgary.

You could catch some fish in the Red Deer. I once caught a ling that weighed close to 10 lbs. but one day I caught a very young beaver, so small I had to feed it milk to start with. I had it for over a year and it became quite tame.

We had quite a few visitors from Denmark besides Prince Erik. My mother came out for a visit with my sister and me. I also had some young Danish boys staying with me supposedly in order to learn farming: Christian Lerche Lerchenborg and his cousin Christian Fredrik Scheel, Kaj Munk, Einar Lichtenberg. They weren't all there at the same time but I generally had 2 or 3 extra people to cook for.

Quite a few new houses were built during this time by Peter Adamsen Sr., for John Petersen, Lonneberg, and myself, etc. Lots of land was cleared and put under cultivation and the quality of both horses and cattle were improved. We started a horse breeding club and brought in a very good stallion; I was sec.-treas. of this club. Better bulls were brought in; I had a small herd of pure bred shorthorn cattle, one bull and 4 or 5 cows of very good breeding; they were brought in from Ontario. I bought them from Duncan Marshall in Olds, who was Minister of Agriculture at that time. As a rule I took my bull calves to the spring sale in Edmonton but also sold some in the district. My bull was standing service in the district.

Mr. Caroe passed away recently.

L.B. CHRISTENSEN

Mr. L.B. Christensen came from Omaha, Nebraska to Dickson in the spring of 1903 and his wife during the summer months.

The following is a memo written by the late Mrs. L.B. Christensen: "It took Mrs. Pedersen and I three days to travel from Omaha Nebraska to Innisfail. We packed our own lunch for the train trip. Tired from the journey we would have been glad to sleep in a good bed. We were used to well organized conditions in Omaha but we were prepared to meet the opposite here. The rooming house in Innisfail was overcrowded but they made an exception for us and managed to give us a room. The bed looked far from inviting to us so we didn't undress. We tried to sleep but it was not easy. We are not exaggerating when we say that the bed was alive with bed bugs. They were so tame that we could pet them but that is not what we did. Instead there was a killing that we haven't seen in the history of our living in Dickson. That was

the way we spent our first night in Alberta. The next morning our husbands came for us and we felt more secure in their company. Mrs. Fred Pedersen and I were placed in a buggy. My husband walked beside the horse because we only had one horse and the road was so rough. Fred took some equipment and the chickens that had been left in Innisfail when he had arrived earlier on the wagon which was pulled by two horses. Towards evening when we were in the middle of a slough, one of the wheels came off Fred's wagon, and the chickens fell into the water. Our husbands had to go down into the water to rescue the chickens and to put the wheel back on to the axle, but they couldn't find the nut that was to hold the wheel on, so they had to continue without it. We had to watch the wheel carefully to see that it did not come off again. We stayed overnight at a bachelor's house. It had been raining most of the time and kept on raining all of the next day.

"We finally reached our new home; a tent by a creek. From now on real difficulties began. We had two cows and two horses. One cow died because it couldn't stand the climate. The other cow didn't give any milk. We bought another cow with the last \$40.00 we had.

"The first winter we lived mostly on dried apples and bacon which we bought on credit from the store in Markerville. The log house which we built had a flat roof made of sod. We couldn't keep dry. The rain leaked through the roof. There wasn't even a dry place for the bed to stand. When the sun shone I moved everything out of the house to dry. We didn't have much furniture but we had a large mirror. This I also put outside to dry. We had bought a sheep from an Iclander and it grazed around the house. It came up and saw itself in the mirror. Being surprised at seeing a head like its own it was aggressive and took a few steps back and then came forward with a leap into the mirror. That was a big surprise for the sheep, it shook its head and disappeared around the corner. I heard the noise of shattering glass and came out to see what had happened. It took a few minutes to figure things out but when I saw the sheep I knew. I felt very badly about losing my mirror but I gathered some of the larger pieces of glass and kept them as a souvenir. A sheep is a sheep and I should have known better than to put my mirror outside.

"On one occasion my husband drove to Marker-ville to buy groceries. The road was as usual very poor. He had to drive in and out to try to find the high places. It became dark on the way home and he finally realized that he was lost. He let the horses' reins go loose hoping that they would find their way home. He gave up hope of this finally and unhooked the horses and tied them to the wagon and bedded himself down beneath the wagon for the night and fell asleep. In the early morning he rubbed his eyes and wondered where he was. He heard a rooster crow close by and then he knew that he must be close to a farm. Walking a little way he discovered that he was only a short distance from his own farm.

"My husband and I finally were able to cultivate five acres of land. We planted barley and potatoes but everything froze. The potatoes were so bitter that we could hardly eat them.

"On Sundays we all gathered together in different homes for a Church Service. The men took turns reading a sermon to us. We did a lot of singing of hymns. We were poor but we lived and worked in hope of making progress. We had many disappointments but we learned to bring them to our Heavenly Father in prayer."

PAUL CHRISTENSEN

I arrived in Canada from Denmark in the spring of 1928. I worked 6 months in Dalum and after that I lived in East Kootenay, B.C. until the spring of 1945. In 1944 I was encouraged to come to Dickson to buy out Odin Larsen's Trucking business which I did. I arrived in Dickson in 1945.

Being a trucker I got acquainted with the farmers and their mud roads quickly and had a few accidents and upsets but nothing very serious.

As a bachelor I enjoyed many good meals both when I worked and was invited for Sunday Dinners.

In 1946 communications were established with Denmark again and the girl to whom I was engaged and had not heard from for 5 years, was still unmarried, and after some corresponding decided to come over here. She tried all summer to get a visa and passport, but it seemed hopeless in the after-war conditions. In the fall I tried with the help of the Vice-Consul to do what we could from here.

Finally he suggested that I go to Denmark and bring my bride back, which I did. We were married in February and came back here in April of 1947. My wife Esther was received with open arms and again we both enjoyed much hospitality. It is interesting to note that after 2 or 3 years marriage, I received a letter from the immigration office in Calgary informing me that by now they had removed all the obstacles so if I wanted to bring my fiancée from Denmark, I would now be able to do so, to which I of course replied that she had been here for more than 2 years.

We lived in the Lonneberg home one-half mile east of Dickson the first year. We had a good summer and not a bad winter but toward spring we had several bad storms. Early in March I was snowed in in Innisfail for 3-4 days. In April the weather turned soft and the roads turned into mud. We had some anxiety as Esther was expecting our first child. Only a couple of model A Fords were getting through to Innisfail without being towed part way. A couple of neighbors advised us to get my wife off to town early because we would never be able to make the trip in a hurry.

I was sick in bed at the time, so Richard Pedersen and his wife started out for Innisfail with Esther in the car and a small tractor pulling it. When they got to Medicine flat they decided they could leave the tractor there but alas a couple of miles hence they got stuck and stayed there until someone in a jeep came along. He pulled the car out and took Esther along to Innisfail. Our boy Hans was born 4 days later.

When I got out of bed and walked to the store to phone Dr. Carcallen, he informed me that my wife was weak but we had a healthy boy. Due to road bans the truck stood still for more than 2 months. When I finally took 3/4 load of pigs to town on the 25 of May I was stuck once and had to be pulled. The next day I took a load of cattle to Calgary and I was never out of the low gear between Medicine and Red Deer bridges.

In the fall of 1948 we traded our trucking business off to Ansgar Hansen for a quarter section of land (by the way Ansgar has operated it ever since and is now in his 25th year of operation.)

We went to the coast to manage an old peoples home but we found the task impossible with a baby and not enough help.

In 1949 we came back to sell our quarter but ended up farming it. In 1950 we had a good crop of grain and things looked good for us. In 1951 most of our crop snowed under on the 14th of October and stayed out with the result that there was little left in the spring. This was bad but worse was to come as in 1952 we hailed out 90 per cent which meant that the rest was not worth picking up; we were now in such bad shape financially that broke was not the correct term. A good friend of ours proved to us that a friend in need is a friend indeed. He gave us a cheque worth \$1800.00 as a loan and said get yourself some livestock, which we did and with some income from our Christmas tree farm in B.C. we slowly crawled out of our debts.

The year our youngest son, Peter was born was another stormy winter and spring. In those days the roads were the lowest part of the country and consequently, blew in. So it took caterpillar tractors to plow them out. On the 18th of April a new storm came up and I said to my wife that this is where you go to town to stay.

Peter was born in Red Deer Hospital on April 26. Both mother and baby stayed there for more than a month. It looked doubtful that mother would survive. At last she began to rally and improved quite rapidly. Then one night about 2 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Homo Christiansen awakened me. A phone call had come from the hospital requesting me to come immediately; when a person gets that kind of message one knows that things are very serious.

I had been taught to pray from my childhood but I don't know that I have every prayed as I did that night. When I got to the hospital I was told that a blood clot had passed and the crisis was over. Esther was resting comfortably. After a few days my family came home and during the summer she recovered.

In 1957 we rented the place we now live on (SE-1/2 of sec. 33-3-W5) and 2 years later we bought it, this gave us more land and livestock to work with.

Such things as roads, schoolbusses, electricity and telephone improved living tremendously.

As a farmer I did not accomplish anything too spectacular. I have always claimed that if science could have done something special with rhubarb,

quackgrass and wild oats, then I would no doubt have been a great success.

It was probably interest in the church in Dickson that made me decide to come here to live. It was my privilege to get acquainted with some of the Pioneers of this district and I have a great respect for those who started this settlement and also for their faith in God.

I have served in every capacity on the executive of the Church but one, it was a thrill to be chosen a member of the building committee for our new church.

It has been the good fortune for my family and myself always to have had good neighbors.

AXEL CHRISTENSEN

Axel Christensen came to Dickson in 1941 and worked for Jack Hendrickson. He purchased Volmar Nielsen's farm in 1942, in 1946 he purchased 80 acres from Andrew Andersen. In 1953 he visited Denmark and married Sigred Albertsen. They have one daughter Ester who married Jim Ouderkirk and resides in Butte. Axel sold his farm in 1973 to Mr. Aschenbrenner, and they plan to retire in Innisfail.

CHRIS CHRISTENSEN - by Delia Christensen

Chris and Nina Christensen were married in Denmark. They moved to Chicago in 1913, they had two children, Eva aged 5 and Jo 3. Their third daughter Emma was born in Chicago. They arrived in Dickson June 5, 1919.

For some years they lived on what was known as Cassel's place. In 1923 their son Stanley was born. They then moved onto the Thomsen place. Chris was the first to have a portable feed chopper in the district. He was also first to have a portable saw to saw firewood. For several years he travelled around the district with his outfits. He hauled cream to Markerville for several years. Eva quite often picked up cream in Kevisville using horse and buggy. Chris then hauled it to Markerville.

Nina died in 1928.

Chris married his second wife Pauline in approximately 1934. They had two children; Ken and Alice.

Chris was probably better known as "Chicago Chris", than by his real name. With several people who had the same or nearly the same name, there had to be a distinction made, so Chris was labelled "Chicago."

In later years Chris hauled cream to C.A.D.P. He retired the year before his death in February 1956. Pauline died in 1958.

OSCAR A. CHRISTENSEN by Elna Christensen

Oscar A. Christensen was born in Denmark in 1904. In 1927 he immigrated to Canada and for a number of years worked at different jobs throughout Alberta. In 1930 he took out land SE 8 in the Dickson area where he has resided ever since. Oscar has been active in church work for many years, serving on the church council and also as Sunday School Sec. Treas. Oscar taught Sunday School at Crooked Creek along with Max Lauritzen and Paul Christen-

sen. This was carried on with the assistance of his wife, Elna Dahl, after their marriage. They have 6 sons - Norval, Dennis, Howard, Tom, Milton and Glen. All the boys have been active in 4-H, church and school activities.

CARL CHRISTIANSEN 1877-1945 by Mrs. Eva Castella

In 1893 Carl Christiansen emigrated from Denmark to West Branch Iowa, at the young age of sixteen years. He attended a Folk school in Elkhorn, Iowa to learn the English language. Later he went to Dana College at Blair, Nebraska. Here he met Laura the second daughter of Mrs. Marie Christiansen. Carl married Laura in 1901. They moved to Omaha where Carl had work as a clerk in a grocery store. At about this time the Canadian Government passed the Homestead Act which promised title to a quarter section after three year's residence on the quarter and some specified improvements were made. Carl and several other families decided that this was an opportunity of a lifetime. Plans were made to leave for Alberta.

After a long hard journey from Omaha they arrived at Innisfail in July 1903. Now they shifted to wagons and began the journey westward to their new home. The first day they arrived at the home of the late Dan Morkeberg's in Markerville where they stayed overnight. The next day they journeyed the last ten miles to their home. To their dismay the land for the most part was covered with water except for higher knolls. This was a surprise since two of the men had been sent up to look at the land the previous winter. In winter the sloughs looked like open areas of good land. There was no turning back now.

My parents lived in a tent the first summer. This must have been difficult for my mother with her first son, Homo, who was only six months old. During the summer the men helped each other to build their log houses. My parents' home was to become the first Post Office in the settlement.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Christiansen, Bernice, Esther and Homo.

My sister Esther, Mrs. Harold Mogensen, was born during the homestead days.

My father built the store in 1909. They moved from the homestead to the new home above the store. The store still serves the community. The first sale recorded was the sale of a hammer for twenty-five cents to the late Axel Lundgren. There were many difficult years. All freight had to be hauled by wagon and horses from Innisfail. The roads were not good and sometimes it was a two day trip to Innisfail and back. As there was not much cash in the settlement lumber, pigs, cattle, and other produce of the farm was traded for groceries.

During the time when new settlers were coming to the district my parents would see to it that they had the necessities to keep going until they became better established.

After moving to the home above the store there were three more children, Bernice, Eva and Gordon.

During the years my parents continued to be active in the community affairs especially in the church until their deaths. My father passed away in 1945 and my mother in 1955.

THE DOHLMANS - by Eric Dohlman

Einar Dohlman, a Danish Boer War veteran and a Lieutenant in the Danish Army emigrated to Canada in 1914 together with his wife and 3 children, Fred 14, Ingeborg 13, and Erik 7. They came directly to the Dickson district and bought land from Stigings where the family lived until 1918 when Fred was left to care for the farm and the rest went to B.C.

In 1919 the drought was so bad that when Fred and Mr. Burdikin cut hay they fastened a basket behind the cutting bar to catch the hay. A cattle buyer had bought some 50 head of cattle from them that fall paying a deposit of \$500.00 with the understanding that they were to drive them to Innisfail sometime and receive the balance of payment. In the meantime a hard winter and lack of feed played havoc with the cattle business. When they arrived in Innisfail with the cattle, the buyer refused to accept them so they drove them back home again, jubilant over their seemingly good fortune in still having their cattle plus the \$500.00 deposit. However it did not prove to be any windfall for them as they paid more than the \$500.00 for the feed which sold at fantastic prices. To top it all off they, as well as most of their neighbors, lost the greater part of their animals due to lack of feed.

The rest of the family returned in 1920, sold the farm in 1923 but had to take it back again in 1926.

Fred and Erik bought a threshing outfit and usually had about a 60 day run.

During the winters Erik hauled grain to Innisfail twice a week for themselves and the neighbors - using mostly 4 horse teams. At times 6 horses were used. Usually he also had 10-15 cases of 30 doz. eggs on top of the grain that he hauled into the station at Innisfail to be shipped to Calgary. These eggs were brought into Carl Christiansen's store by farmers to pay for groceries. On return trips he brought groceries and supplies back to Christiansen's store.

One day as usual Erik's grain tank was loaded with grain, and egg crates were placed on top. This day the drifts were very deep in the Medicine flats and as a result the sleigh upset dumping both grain and eggs. With the assistance of people living near by, he got everything picked up again as best he could and proceeded on with his load drawn by 6 horses. He unloaded the egg crates at the station for their usual delivering to Calgary. Carl was somewhat puzzled when he only received egg cheques for about one third of the eggs shipped, so Erik had to confess what had happened.

Sometimes Erik hauled as much as 200 bushels of barley or 150 bushels of wheat.

The family, except for Ingeborg who attended the convent at Red Deer and later became a teacher, continued to live in the district until Mrs. Dohlman's death in 1945. In the meantime Fred married Ollie Shue, and later moved to Winfield. They have one son who is married.

Erik was married to Mae McNutt in 1929. To this marriage, 3 sons were born, William, James and Wayne. Erik left this community in 1938, moving east of Red Deer. In 1953 Erik remarried. His wife being the former Beryl Shepherd of Pine Lake.

Ingeborg, still teaching school on Vancouver Island is married and has 2 boys and 1 girl.

Mr. Dohlman died on Vancouver Island in 1964.

THOMAS C. DAHL & FAMILY by Elna Christensen

My father was born Oct. 5, 1896 in Wentvan, Nebraska. He was the youngest son of Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dahl. He immigrated to Canada with his parents to Standard, then to the Dickson area where he met my mother Anna M. Nielsen, daughter of Richard Nielsen, Sr.

Mother was born in Wisner, Nebraska in 1897. She came to the Dickson area with her parents in 1910. Mother and her sister Lucinda were among the first young people confirmed in the Dickson Church.

Mother and dad were married in Dickson in 1917. Dad hauled supplies for Carl Christiansen by wagon and team. They resided on the homestead owned by her father R.P. Nielsen who was living in the U.S.

They moved to Standard where most of the children were born. After living on the prairies during the twenties they moved back to Dickson in 1931 with their 5 children. The first winter mother and dad lived with Richard and Ethel who had also moved back to Dickson from Standard. The oldest children, Eugene, Elna, Thelma and Bernice stayed with their grandparents and went to school.

Dad and Uncle Richard took out logs for our house which was completed by Christmas 1932. We children then came home. Dad farmed and trucked again for Carl Christiansen. In 1950 he went to work in the oil industry. Later he moved to Fort Saskatchewan where he worked at the Provincial Jail.

He served on the school board, also on the board of the New Raven Church.

At the age of 65 Dad retired, bought a small house and moved to the farm of his daughter, Thelma Lan-

din, where they lived until their passing, dad in 1966 and mother in 1967.

Mother and dad are buried in the Dickson cemetery. To this union 10 children were born, 3 passed away in infancy and 2 as young adults. Eugene met with an oilfield accident and passed away in 1956. He was married with 5 children. Dorothy lives in Red Deer.

Elna married Oscar Christensen and live in this area. She is active in church and community affairs.

Thelma married Arvid Landin and they farm in this area. Bernice married Issac Stout. Kermit was killed in an oilfield accident in 1959. Hazel married Don Belt and lives at Sundre, Meryln lives at Drayton Valley and is in the trucking business.

TAGE DAMGAARD by Anna Damgaard

In 1950 Mr. and Mrs. Tage Damgaard bought NW28-R3-W5 from Adolph Raun. Tage served on the Co-op Board. His wife Anna has been active in the Spruce View Co-op Guild and Spruce View Ladies Club.

They have three children: Osa (Mrs. Ralph Milford) lives at Carlyle, Sask. They have two children.

Niels is attending University in Calgary where he is working on his degree in Micro-Biology, after which he intends to enter Medical School. He married Penny Guzzi. Willy is attending University in Edmonton. He is in his second year in Computer Science. He married Moony Cairns.

CHRISTIAN ENGHAUGE - by Judith Miller

Marie and Christian Enghauge with their four daughters ages 7, 5, 3 and 1 came to Dickson in 1910 from Wisconsin where they had farmed after selling their bookstore in Chicago. Mr. Enghauge took a homestead on the Red Deer River and bought the quarter where the old church stood. In 1915 the log house on that land burned and it was replaced by a two-story large square framehouse, big rooms and a double door between the dining and living rooms for, as Mrs. Enghauge told her daughters "holding church services" which were held in the various homes until the church was built. Mr. Enghauge was active in the church as well as being Superintendent of the Bethel Sunday school, four miles north and then east of Dickson. He was Sec. Treas. of the "Oil Circle", the Drainage District, and for many years of the King's S.D. "later called Dickson". A number of the earlier teachers, from 1915 on boarded at the Enghauges, the first being Mr. McGregor, and then Miss James. Two more daughters were born in 1911 and 1913 completing the family of six daughters, four of whom are still living: Martha in Victoria, B.C., Judith and Naomi at Sundre, Alberta, and Beulah in Innisfail. The second daughter, Priscilla died in Calgary at the age of twenty and Lydia (Nicholson) in 1931. Lydia's son Nelson and his family reside on the home place. The big house was destroyed by fire the fall of 1949 and has also been replaced.

One of the hardships of the pioneers was the epidemic (if it can be called such) of swamp fever in

horses, probably about the time of the First World War. I remember my Dad losing horses and at that time they were a terrific price, two hundred dollars he paid for one.

NORMAN FETCH by Ellen Fetch

My husband, Norman, and I were both children of pioneer homesteaders in southwest Saskatchewan.

Norman's parents came from the British Isles and settled near Wallard Sask., where Norman was born on December 4, 1915.

My father, Victor Hanson, emigrated to Canada from Sweden, and my mother came from the States. I was born at my mother's home in Michigan on December 29, 1916, but at the tender age of two months my parents brought me back to the homestead south of Ponteix, Sask.

Norman and I grew up during the "Dirty Thirties", the era of grasshoppers, cutworms, army worms, relief cheques and dust storms! At that time Alberta with her snow-capped Rockies and abundant rainfall sounded like the Land of Promise.

We were married at my home and two years later, 1944, we moved to the Dickson district with my folks. My father had purchased the farm, consisting of all of Section 22 lying east of the Red Deer River, from Sam Finnsen. Sam and his father had homesteaded the east half of the section and acquired the west half, or river quarters at a later date.

A family by the name of Taylor at one time lived on the northwest quarter. And old log barn, some very healthy rhubarb plants, and a pile of chimney bricks remained on the old farmsite when we came, and to this day we still call it the "Taylor quarter".

In 1945 Norman bought the fraction of C.P.R. land (Section 15) which joined our farm on the south, and was also bounded by the river.

My father, who was a carpenter by trade, found plenty to do around the farm, and soon built a small house near us, for mother and himself. He did quite a bit of carpenter work for other people in those first years, including building the Bethany Lutheran parsonage at Dickson.

In October 1945, our first child, Norma, was born, to be followed by our son, Robert, in July 1949, and then Arlene, our youngest, born in 1952.

The years brought many changes, both joy and sorrow. My mother passed away in November 1957, my father was with us until March 1963.

We replaced our old log house with a new and modern home in 1964. It was probably one of the oldest log houses still in use in the country at that time. I believe it was built in the early 1900's and it had provided shelter and warmth to several families before we came to live in it. When the old house was being dismantled to move, my husband found parts of it in good condition after all those years, so possibly with more "sentiment" than sense, he decided to leave the main part intact, put on a new roof, and now it continues to serve a useful purpose as a granary.

In almost twenty five years of living in the Dickson district we have seen great progress, found good

friends and neighbours, and made some of our dreams come true.

We can but have the same hope for the future.

SAM FINNSEN

Sam Finnsen and his father homesteaded the place now owned by Norman Fetch. They were Icelanders. So it was only natural that they made friends with the other early Icelandic settlers in the Markerville area. This was especially true of the senior Mr. Finnsen as he wasn't very fluent in English. Sam was very interested in public affairs and served as councillor for some years. He was also a good chess player and played many times with S. Benedickson and a Mr. Ledingham.

In 1928 the Finnson's rented the farm to the Nissen family and moved to Calgary where Sam worked in the Calgary Brewery. Mr. Finnson, Sr. died while they lived in Calgary. In the late thirties Sam moved back to the farm for a few years, then moved to B.C. and operated a small store. He passed away some years ago. Sam is remembered as a very helpful and generous neighbor.

A.E. FORBES - by Olive Michiel

A.E. Forbes (Ern) was born at Lyne Valley P.E.I. in 1885 (about), came west at the age of 25 years and to Dickson as a school teacher.

My mother, Agnes Marie Jensen, born at Lake Lillian, Minn. U.S.A. in 1894 and came to the Dickson Community about 1910 with her parents.

They were married about 1913.

He purchased a quarter section of land but never lived on it and later it was sold to Evelyn Petersen. Mr. Sam Finnson and his father, the Westergaards, Anna Nielsen and her folks and the McKains were among close neighbors.

Just prior to leaving Dickson he bought a few groceries and staples wholesale and began a grocery store on a small scale. At this time they were living in the upstairs part of the J.C. Jensen residence. This small business he took along to Red Raven and was the first one to open up the business of a General Store there. This he sold to Raymond McKain and he moved with his family to Calgary where he was Principal of a school for 3 years from 1922 to 1925.

Their first child, myself, Olive, was born at Dickson at the home of Louis Adamsen. Donald was born in Jenner, where my father also taught school for a year. Elden was born in Red Raven at the time after the General Store was established. LaVonne was born in Calgary. In 1926 the family returned to Red Raven where they made their home but teaching in turn almost all the schools in that part of the country, namely, Crooked Creek, Rich Hill, Spruce View, New Hill and the Three Raven Schools - North Raven, South Raven and Red Raven again, for the third time.

He also was the auditor of all the books of School Boards for miles around, even to the north and west to Shilo, Stauffer, Crammond, Hazel Dell, etc., depending on Shanks pony to get him from one place to another. He loved to walk, and was a fast walker.

He often made the distance from Red Raven and Dickson to Innisfail on foot.

He was also Justice of the Peace for many years.

After they returned to Red Raven from Calgary two more sons were born, Larry and Murrar. Eldon and Larrie took some of their High School in Dickson.

Dad died in 1956 and mother in 1954.

BERNARD FORESTER

In 1928 Bernard and Lily Forester; with daughter Grace, born two years earlier, sold their home in Innisfail and moved one and a half miles south of Dickson to a raw CPR quarter. They loaded all their belongings into a hayrack along with a load of lumber to build a house on their new land. Mr. Forester and H.P. Westergaard cleared most of the quarter with a brushcutter they had built themselves.

In 1939 Ron was born. Mr. Forester continued the farming operation successfully until the late 1940's when he purchased a water well drill.

In 1955 they had the misfortune of losing their house and their belongings to fire. The house that stands today was built immediately after the fire.

Due to ill health, Mr. Forester had to give up both farming and well drilling in 1964. He sold the farmland in 1967, but kept the house and a small acreage. They lived here till 1972 when they rented their house and moved to Innisfail.

W.E. GRAUENKJER

Willy Emil Grauenkjer was born at Frederica, Denmark, September 3, 1906 and came to Canada to Dickson district May 20, 1928. He went to work for Mr. A.C. Lorenzen which was his home most of the time. He spent one winter at Dana High School in Calgary. He was very active in church work and Boy Scouts. He was an Honour Scout from Denmark. He was editor of Church and Home for a number of years. He married Bertha Jensen at Dickson July 21, 1940.

He rented the farm now owned by Aage Jensen for 2 years, then moved down and farmed A.C. Lorenzen's farm until moving to Edmonton in 1947 and later to Calgary in 1948, where he was a travel agent until he passed away on March 13, 1952.

REVEREND JES CHRISTIAN GUNDESEN — THE FIRST DANISH LUTHERAN PASTOR TO WORK IN CANADA by Elsa Gundesen

Jes Christian Gundesen was born September 21, 1857, in a small home in Frostrup, Denmark. There his father, Niels Gundesen, worked his small farm, and sometimes had to work for others to make ends meet.

When Christian had finished school and was confirmed he went to work for a storekeeper in Varda. Later he went to Synderjyland where he was employed for some time. When word came, "Your mother is dead," he emigrated to America, and after some difficulty, found his uncle in Elmdale, Minnesota. Here he had a good home, and worked hard. It was his joy, after some time to be able to send \$200.00 home to his brother.

But Christian wanted to go to school, and felt it his duty to do so owing to a vow made earlier. So he attended evening school while working in the daytime. In 1882, he went to a Bible School just outside Minneapolis, Augsburg Seminary. This he enjoyed — work in summer — school in winter. He was a good student, excelling mostly in History, Greek and Latin; and being of a happy nature, he made friends whom he never forgot. Here they soon found that he had an apt way of expressing himself both in prose and poetry, and often wrote poems for the papers which they appreciated very much. Some students "batched" together, and shared the grocery bill, thus being able to pay their way, though it was difficult at times, and they could not always keep the wolf from the door. Grandmother said, "Their coffee was pretty thin."

Many a broad-shouldered man could not find work at that time, but Christian held his job, and often came home with cracked hands from working with stone used in building. Before churches were built the students preached in homes and schools.

While he worked in Minneapolis he met Petrea Thomsen, and married her. She was a very practical and efficient woman, and could well help him by working for others and selling his books. One of her outstanding characteristics was that of courage.

Here in Minneapolis, Christina was born.

Jes Christian Gundesen, now a full-fledged minister, having been ordained in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1892, moved with his little family to serve a congregation in Minomonie, Wisconsin, where he bought a forty-acre farm, of which fifteen acres were heavy woods and five acres pasture. The congregation was to help him cultivate the rest. It was a beautiful place, and the area around the house soon looked like a park. Here, under the stately trees of maple and oak, all the community picnics were held. Mrs. Gundesen was particularly good at making things festive with lots of good food and gracious hospitality. But the small beginnings were gratefully remembered: the kindly Soren Madsen with whom they shared a home until a house could be built, and the day a man came with a white cow to supply milk. How good people were!

Soon Martin Nielsens, friends of earlier days in Minnesota, settled in the community. The oldest settlers had been there seven years when the Gundesen family arrived. They figured that when a man had cleared forty acres of land he was worn out. They took out logs in the wintertime and were cautious about going into debt, being quite independent. A cosy little school house served as a place of worship, and Rev. Gundesen enjoyed his ministry to the faithful group, ministering in sincerity and truth. God, Himself, will be the Judge! On Saturdays the children came for Bible study. Visiting pastors brought joy to both congregation and home.

In 1904 Rev. Gundesen was called to Dickson, Alberta, the letter being written by Carl Christiansen. They arrived in the fall with their four girls and a boy. Their first home was Henry Larsen's one-

roomed log house, called "Freedom from Sorrow". The next day they showed Rev. Gundesen a small hill where the church was to be built — a well drained and beautiful place. As means were meagre, he was advised to take a homestead, which he did. Earlier he had bought a C.P.R. quarter next to it. There were only three horses in the community, but logs were soon pulled together for the Gundesen home, and also over on the hill, for the church. In December the family moved into their new home. Dagny, a wee baby, was laid in one corner on a straw mattress while the snow was being shovelled out.

One day Fred Pedersen's horse sank down in a muskeg, and as it was impossible to get it out, he had to shoot it. His wife said that was the only time she had ever seen him cry. He was such a good, kind, jolly man, always ready to help anyone in trouble. His laugh could be heard all over the settlement.

At that time it took two days to make a trip to town, but no one thought of going without letting all their neighbors know so that they could send for needed groceries. Those were wonderful, happy days of fellowship and helpfulness; but there were dark heavy days too. In 1907 Rev. Gundesen laid the cornerstone of the new church.

After two years of suffering, during which time he had to ask Rev. Andersen time after time to take his service in Olds, Rev. Gundesen was called UP HIGHER. Rev. Andersen took charge of the burial. There were many kind words, many flowers, and many, many tears. Some years later the congregation put a stone on his grave. Mrs. Gundesen tried to take care of his manuscripts and poetry, some of which may one day be published.

For the Gundesen's first three years in Dickson, there was no school, and Rev. Gundesen's meagre salary of about \$10.00 per month, did not allow paying for board elsewhere. However, eventually, the four girls became teachers, and Christian, the only boy, became a doctor of medicine and surgery. Christina, the eldest, was the mother of Violet Lung, a doctor, who often, during her holidays, stooked grain to help pay the cost of educational fees, etc. Christina's son, Evald, farms near Benalto. Helena, the second daughter, married Jens Schmidt, a Dickson farmer and gardener. Elsa, the third, taught the Dickson High School from its modest beginnings in the church basement and sixteen years later, was asked by our M.P. Robert Thompson, to take charge of a Teacher Training School in Kaffa Province of Ethiopia, of which he was then the Director of Education for the Ethiopian Government. During that time The Red Sea Mission Team was gradually called into being, and Elsa became its first volunteer. During sixteen years of fair weather and foul, her little farm in Dickson was cared for and operated by a faithful, steadfast group of men and women of the community and because they gave so generously of their time, thought, effort, and much else, many a dark-skinned patient has been helped, and a mission base or headquarters operated. The fourth daughter, Dagny, married Andy Dyrholm, and together they

have seen Bethany Auxiliary Hospital, Calgary, through all the "growing pains" from its small beginning to its present A-1 three-hundred-bed hospital. Their two sons, David, a Dentist, and Rodney, a Teacher, live and work in Calgary.

A cairn, built of local stone, now marks the place where stood the first Dickson church, and where Rev. Gundesen preached his last sermon.

A. HAND

Mr. and Mrs. Hand came to Dickson in 1959 when they purchased the Art Kure farm. In 1968 they sold their stock and machinery and moved to Jamaica for four years where Mr. Hand managed and trained local men to raise their own produce for a boarding school of 600 people.

They have two children Donald and Deborah.

ANSGAR HANSEN

Ansgar Hansen came to Canada from Denmark in 1928. He worked on a dairy farm in Sask., then came to Dickson where he worked for Th. Thomsen picking roots.

He purchased NW15-36-3-5 where he and his father stayed for two years. When Ansgar's brother Chris took over the farm. Ansgar went to Camrose and worked in a garage and then in the sugar beets at Taber, attending Bible School in Camrose in the winter.

He came back to Dickson and worked as a mechanic for Hans Andersen for two years, then purchased NW34-35-3-5 in 1947 which he traded to Paul Christensen in 1948 for his home, truck, and business. Ansgar has been a faithful trucker in this area for twenty-five years and is still going strong. He married Marie Christensen in 1962, who had been a nurse in Calgary.

CARL ERIK HANSEN

Carl Erik Hansen came to the Dickson area in 1942. Hank Kemptrup was the chauffeur for the ride from Innisfail to Spruce View. The roads were muddy and full of ruts so Erik had to walk the 2 miles to the parsonage in Dickson. The ride to his first job was by horse and buggy and the road was so muddy and wet in places that the water was over the floorboards at times.

His first job was for Mr. and Mrs. Jens Norre. He worked for several farmers in the area and then moved to the U.S.A. for three years.

While there he married his wife, Marcia. They have 2 children, Yvonne and Neil and now farm in the area on 30-35-2-5. By coincidence Mr. and Mrs. Jens Norre have their home on the North 40 acres of the same quarter.

HANS L. HANSEN

Dickson was our home for thirty-two years. This is where our children were born and grew up. This is where we spent our best years. We have five children: four boys and a girl. They are all married and have families of their own.

I left Dickson in 1959 and went to Calgary. I worked at the Grace Hospital and here I met my present wife, Myrtle in 1961.

My wife, Beatha, and I arrived in Halifax May 22nd, 1927 on the "Hellig Oluf" of the Scandinavian American Line. I will never forget my first impression of the coast as it looked from the boat which was anchored in the harbour. Everything looked so bare and desolate, not a blade of green grass anywhere. The trees looked grey and lifeless. When we left the Danish shore the spring flowers were blooming and the trees were coming out in their beautiful light green foliage. It didn't look too inviting but there was no turning back. We had burned our bridges behind us.

We were herded through customs and to a platform where a train was waiting. It was a long tiresome trip, sitting and sleeping on hard wooden benches. It was a Canadian National Railway Immigrant Special and sorry to say it was very dirty. We arrived in Montreal on Victoria Day and had a few hours stop-over. Most of the immigrants were going as far as Winnipeg. This is where we changed trains and boarded the Canadian Pacific Railway.

A Danish minister by the name of Damskov who worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway Immigration Service, was at the station in Winnipeg to meet us. There were many things that we asked him about this new and strange country. He told us about some of the Danish settlements in the west. When we told him that we were on our way to Dickson he didn't seem very enthusiastic. I asked him then if this settlement was not favourable. He said, "Yes — but you will never get away from there again." We asked no more questions because our minds were made up to go to Dickson.

From Winnipeg we travelled on a regular passenger train to Calgary. The farther west we came the better we liked the country. In Calgary a young man met us and took us to the Danish Home, "Dana" on the North Hill. It was so good to be among fellow countrymen and to be in a friendly home atmosphere. We stayed overnight and enjoyed a good breakfast. On our way to the station a car stopped and picked us up. We felt that Canadians were very friendly and did their best to understand us. We boarded the train for Innisfail and arrived there before noon.

Jens Dixen who has been mentioned several times by different contributors was a well known Danish American Missionary. He had worked hard and had made some money which he used to travel in many countries of the world to spread the gospel which was his main purpose in life. We met in Denmark before we left and he was able to give us valuable information about Canada and Dickson. In 1925 when the congregation was without a minister he served as pastor for several months.

Jens Dixen had advised us to contact Oscar Lundgren at the Jensen Lundgren Garage on our arrival in Innisfail and through him we could contact Carl Christiansen or Chris Morck in Dickson. We reserved a hotel room and then hurried over to the Garage to find Oscar Lundgren to see if he would take us to Dickson. He informed us that this would be im-

possible because of the very poor condition of the road.

We returned to the hotel and had supper. In the evening it was raining but between the showers we took a walk around the town. There were wooden sidewalks in the business section and most of the buildings were made of wood and very much in need of some paint. The next morning we went to see Oscar Lundgren again. He told us that Carl Christiansen who was the storekeeper in Dickson had arranged with Chris Morck for us to be met with horses and a democrat. Mr. Lundgren agreed to take a chance to drive us in his car as far as he could. We went as far as Medicine flat sliding bumping up and down through mud and water but always moving forward, thanks to an experienced steady hand on the wheel. Here we met Archie Morck, a pleasant young man of about 16 years. We transferred our luggage to the democrat. My wife hesitated, looked at the flimsy wheels and asked if the wagon would be strong enough to carry us. Archie assured her that it had carried as much as 30 bushels of wheat so it should be able to carry us. We didn't have any idea what 30 bushels of wheat weighed.

It was a long ride with rain pouring down on us all the way. I tried to walk beside the wagon but my shoes were soon so heavy with mud that I could hardly lift my feet. When we arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Morck we were given a hearty welcome. They had a large family but we were soon placed in the family circle around the supper table. We are very indebted to the Morcks for their friendship and many kindnesses done for us down through the years.

The next day we moved into a little one roomed house in Dickson. It was called "Hotel Denmark" because it was often used by immigrants until they made other arrangements. There was not much of a foundation to the house but under the building was a dug-out where the gophers made their home. We, especially my wife, loved to watch them sitting up on their hind legs, jumping, running and playing with their young.

I was soon able to get work clearing brush for Martinus Nielsen and earned a dollar and fifty cents for a day's work. He lived 4 miles away but supplied a horse for me to travel on.

Louie (Lauritz) Adamsen and his brother-in-law one day took us to an auction sale held out west of us. It was very interesting to hear the auctioneer rattling something off which we thought no one could understand. We saw Indians there and many strangely dressed and dirty people. There was even a tame deer there trying to get the attention of the people. This is where we bought our first livestock which consisted of a goose and a gander. From then on we were always sure of having a goose to cook for Christmas Eve, and often we would have enough to sell to make a little extra money for our Christmas shopping.

After a few months we were able to rent a farm located just west of the Dickson Store from Pastor Bentsen, which had a little larger house on it and a

fairly good barn and a chicken house. We had a small amount of furniture which consisted of a couch for a bed, a table and 2 chairs. If we entertained visitors we used apple boxes and wooden blocks for seats. Our livestock consisted of a cow and 2 geese. I was able to work steadily through haying, harvest and threshing time, and was able to save a little money and with this and some money which we received from Denmark I bought 8 cows, some horses and a few pigs. This brought us a little income.

I do not remember if the first winter was colder than other winters, but I know that I nearly froze my ears while sleeping, and sometimes in the morning the water in the pail and in the kettle on the stove was a block of ice. For some time we had only a cookstove and some poor firewood to supply heat. Later we were able to buy a better heater.

We looked forward very much to spring coming. We were expecting our first child in April. When spring came it was harder than ever to travel. The nearest doctor was 22 miles away, and that would mean a day's journey with horses and wagon. My wife found out from some of her friends that a qualified midwife Mrs. Sveinbjornson lived 8 miles north of us. Our good friend and neighbour, John Petersen offered to take us to make arrangements with her because he knew the way through the rough country. Our trip north was along a winding track and snow covered the ground. When we reached the farm Mrs. Sveinbjornson was in the farm yard and had just brought a lamb into the world. She promised to look after my wife.

When the time came for our son to be born, it was our "Uncle" John Petersen again that we depended upon. I wakened him early in the morning of April 17th and before noon he drove into the yard with Mrs. Sveinbjornson beside him in the sled, and the horses were steaming from the quick trip that they had made.

While Mrs. Sveinbjornson and Mrs. George Nissen looked after my wife I was a very worried father-to-be and I walked to the store to talk to Carl Christiansen. He only said "You know the way" and he pointed to the sky. I lifted my heart to God and committed everything to Him. He answered prayer and before night fall our first son John was born.

In May 1930 we purchased a half section of land 3-1/4 miles northwest of Dickson. This land was not cleared but on it stood a little two-roomed house. We were fortunate to be able to hire a strong, young and energetic immigrant. We put fences up around the land and started to clear the brush and trees. Carl and Harry Thomsen had a McCormick Deering tractor and a pull-type brush-cutter. They took the contract to clear and break 100 acres at \$8.00 an acre but I was to supply the men to take the brush away. These were the days of depression and I was able to hire men for \$1.00 a day.

It was a very hard life but what could we do. Many of the jobless in the towns and cities would have been happy to have taken our place. Some men did come

out, and were glad to work for their board and a few dollars.

As time went on our family increased. God gave us four sons and a daughter, John, Wilfred, Gunnar, Rigmor and Paul. When John and Wilfred started to go to school there was a distance of 3-1/4 miles to go on horseback to Dickson. Our thoughts were with the little fellows from the time we put them on the horse in the morning until they would return from school again sometimes after dark in the winter, and sometimes cold and wet. Most people around our area were having trouble to get their children to the school so we decided to build a school at New Raven. This was erected mostly by volunteer labour. This served for many years until the government supplied school buses to pick the children up and take them to the Dickson school.

As our children grew up they helped with the work on the farm. One winter some of our boys went to the bush to cut lumber. They were able to bring enough home to build a new house. My wife had through the years worked hard and shared in many many hardships without ever complaining. It was a wonderful day when the Calgary Power was put into our farm.

In the summer of 1959 it was hard to accept the truth that Beathe would not be long with us. She passed away in July 1959.

I left Dickson after the funeral and went to Calgary. I found employment at the Grace Hospital and worked there for several years until my retirement.

HINDBO

In Denmark during the mid 1920's Jeppe Hindbo was reading and dreaming about the wide open wheat farming area on the prairies of Western Canada. He decided to see this land for himself and in July 1927 he left his family and went to Canada. He purchased two sections of land three miles east of Rosedale, Alberta, from Mr. Fulton who was going into business in Johannesburg, South Africa. This farm, close to the Red Deer River, was called Nickle Springs Ranch because of springs flowing out from five sources in the farm yard.

In March of 1928, Mrs. Hindbo with eight children, (one with his leg in a cast) ranging in age from six to sixteen, left Denmark to join Mr. Hindbo on his farm. They were accompanied by Mrs. Hindbo's sister, a brother who acted as interpreter, and three friends.

Mr. Hindbo was not at the station to meet his family when they arrived at Rosedale but a burly looking but kindly neighbor happened to be at the station and, seeing the confusion, offered to help. He had his team and stoneboat in town and would give them a lift, taking a short-cut along the river and up the coulee to Nickle Springs Ranch. To the younger set this was an exciting experience but to a fine, gentle lady like Tinna Hindbo it was a nightmare. Meanwhile Hindbo was waiting with his well-groomed horses and cleaned-out bob sleigh, equipped with benches and warm blankets, at the Wayne station as he

had word that this was where his family would get off the train.

With enthusiasm Hindbo started farming. He built up the farm place, erected new barns and things were looking up when the dry thirties came and he was again looking for greener pastures. While living on the prairie Hindbo had now and then visited friends in the Dickson area. This is where he looked again for land. In 1933 he saw a C.P.R. section advertised and this land, located four miles north and four miles west of Spruce View in the New Hill district, was purchased for nineteen cents an acre in the winter of 1934.

The following summer Hindbo and the older boys spent some time on the land, building a cabin and doing some clearing. The next year he purchased the Monteith quarter north of the section and later the Budvarson quarter located east. In February of 1937 the family moved north to the new farm. They joined Bethany Lutheran Church at Dickson.

There was a lot of work to be done but with good food on the table and five daughters, Hindbo had no trouble getting and keeping hired help. Soon the land was cleared of brush and much of it drained, a flock of three hundred sheep and a good herd of cattle were on pasture.

One by one the children left home. Mariane and Eva went to high school in Dickson and both took their nurse's training at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. During the war they went overseas as 2nd Lieutenants in the Canadian Army. The same year, 1943, Jens went overseas as a private with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. He was taken prisoner in Holland in October, 1944, and was in prison camp until July 1945. Jens bought the Jens Norre farm on his return. In October 1948 he married Edna Jorgensen. This farm was sold to Herluf Nielsen in 1966.

After the war, Eva went to San Francisco and was stewardess with the Flying Tigers for fifteen years. Eva is now Mrs. R.A. McFadden and she and "Mac" make their home in Seattle.

On her return from overseas, Mariane worked as a special nurse in Santa Monica, and later, in the Shaunessey Military Hospital in Vancouver. While there, she met and married Paul Udesen. Paul died in 1962 and Mariane was left with their three children, Judy, Kathy and Peter. She is now a nurse in Burris Clinic, Kamloops, B.C.

Hans married Sylvia Adamsen in November 1941. They had five children, Vernon, Dennis, Donna, Lorne and Alan. Hans and Sylvia farmed the Pete Adamsen place which was later sold to Arne Kjeersgaard. They bought the Viggo Andersen farm. Sylvia passed away in 1965. The following spring, Hans sold the farm to Colin Kure and he and the younger children moved to Dickson.

Meta, the oldest daughter, married Viggo Nielsen in 1939. They farmed a quarter near Meta's parents' farm and later bought their present farm a mile west of Spruce View. They have three children, Herluf, Mogens and Alice.

Jenny was in charge of the Dickson School dormitory for a couple of years and also worked as cook at Olds Agricultural School. She married Viggo Johnsen in November 1942.

They are farming just east of Spruce View. Viggo and Jenny have four children, Ralph, Barbara, Joan and Johnny.

Helga, the youngest daughter, married Elmer Kure in October 1943. The year previously, Elmer purchased 240 acres from Jack Riley. This farm is still their home. Elmer and Helga have three children, Colin, Jane, and Michele.

In 1945, Henry was the only son farming with his dad. Since most of the children lived in the Spruce View - Dickson area, and because of ill health, Hindbo decided to list his New Hill farm for sale. That year the six quarters were sold to David Wolf of Drumheller.

Henry bought the Soren Norre farm at Dickson. He married Ester Jacobsen from Tilley, Alberta in 1949. Henry died in 1957 leaving Ester with three children, Jack, Grant and Vivian.

Jeppe and Tinna Hindbo lived on the Harold Hansen place a mile west of Spruce View.

The Hindbos celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on November 10, 1971. The last few years Jeppe has taken up the hobby of rock collecting, polishing, sawing, tumbling, and making rock table tops and jewelry. School classes, friends and strangers alike have viewed his collections, always leaving with a little memento of his handiwork, even if only a little polished rock.

Through the years the Hindbo home has been noted for its warmth and friendliness. Mrs. Hindbo passed away in 1972. Mr. Hindbo retired and makes his home in Red Deer.

PAUL ISAKSEN

I came to Dickson early in the spring of 1930. I worked at Thomas Thomsen's 1-1/2 miles West of Dickson Store. I worked for him for about 5 months then I met A. Hubby and we bought the SE 26-35-03-W5 from the Hudson Bay Co. for \$1400. Hubby only farmed there for 2 or 3 years then I bought his part; I farmed there for some years but you remember how bad the times were from 30-39. Most of the time I was working out as I could not make a living on the farm, but I didn't get very much for working for other



Stooking grain.



Paul Isakson doing his laundry.

farmers. I was working for one farmer one month (12 hours a day) for \$25.00 but at the end of the month he had no money to pay me; I said "I have to eat when I get home," "Okay," he said, "go out in my pig pen and take any pig you want for \$4.00 and eggs, all you want for 4c a dozen and you come here and get your butter at 12c a pound."

I remember I was selling barley for 8c a bushel. I paid 4c for threshing and 4c for hauling the grain to town. I was working for McKean during 4 winter months for 40 dollars: 10 dollars a month. When spring came I bought lumber from McKean for 30 dollars and built myself a garage which burnt; unfortunately I had no insurance; well I guess that was my luck out there in Dickson.

In 1932 B. Forester rented my farm land; There were only about 21 acres in crop and Forester had a very good stand of wheat but on the 7th of July we had the biggest hailstorm ever to hit Dickson before or after. Bernard, my brother Harry and I took a walk over the land after the storm and what remained was black dirt. In 1934 Bernard again rented my land and again had a very good crop. He had it harvested, stooked and was ready for threshing when, next morning, 8 inches of snow fell and never left until spring. After that year the crops were fair but the prices were not. I kept on for a few more years, 1942. I rented my farm to Thomas Sorensen; the first year I received 27 dollars and in '43 I received 350 dollars; at this time I had about 100 acres broken. Then Sorensen left and I rented my land to Soren Jensen; later I sold it to S. Jensen.

I had some wonderful neighbors namely Mr. and Mrs. B. Forester, H. Westergaard and to the south, Evelyn Petersens.

AAGE C. JENSEN

I, Aage Christian Jensen, was born in Denmark on January 25th, 1902 and came to Canada in March, 1929. I married Gerda Oxholm Hansen in 1925. We have three children; Vera born in Denmark, Harry and Robert born in Tofield, Alberta. Vera was

married in Dickson to Laurie Lonneberg. They live at Newton, B.C. and have two children. Harry married Margaret Clief and has three children. They purchased the Herby Westergaard farm.

In 1942 we purchased the farm we lived on until we retired to live in Innisfail. Robert married Barbara Robertson in 1970 and they live on the home place. They have one daughter.

We are members of the Bethany Lutheran Church. I was a member of the Church Council for nine years.

Harry and Robert are active members of the Dickson Fish and Game Assoc.

HANS E. JENSEN

Hans was born at Hayfield, Minn. U.S.A. on April 5th, 1885 and immigrated to Canada, arriving at Dickson in 1911. He took up a homestead at Kevisville (NW25-35). His nearest neighbor at that time was Mads Westergaard.

He served in the first World War after which he went back to the States to Washington for a few years, coming back in 1928. He served in the Veteran's Guard in the Second World War. He is an active Legion member and loves sports. At the present time he is a guest at Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail.

HANS JORGEN JENSEN

Hans Jensen came from Bjerby, Denmark, to Canada in 1961 and Dickson a short while later. He worked for Soren Jensen awhile and in Calgary.

He married Aileen Fitzpatrick in 1964. They have two children: Alan and Sandra.

They bought the Martin Rubak farm in 1967.

Hans is a member of the Chess Club.

JACOB JENSEN TELLS HIS STORY:

My wife Martha and I came to Canada in 1926 and to Dickson in the spring of 1927. We bought a quarter section 3-1/2 miles northwest of Dickson. We looked forward to having our own home and getting our feet under our own table.

The man from whom we bought the farm told us that there were 100 acres broken but when it was measured there were only 27 acres cleared. The balance was solid brush. The buildings were in poor condition. A log shack had been used by the owner as a house. He was a bachelor. We used this later on as a chickenhouse.

There was a building being put up which measured 16 feet by 20 feet, we finished this and used it for our home. We lived here for 17 years. We paid \$3,000.00 for the farm and made a down payment of \$500.00. With another \$500.00 we bought horses, harness, machinery and the most necessary things for the house. We were short of many things but we got along all right.

Our first daughter Ruth was born in April so we had to buy a fresh cow and paid \$40.00 for it without its calf. A few months later we found the same cow dead in the pasture and we had no money to buy another. I bought 5 horses on credit which took us many years to pay for.

The spring of 1927 was very wet and we were not able to get the seed sown until the middle of June. In

the fall the grain was six feet tall but the frost came before it could ripen, so we didn't get much grain. We had lots of green feed and three big stacks of hay with no cattle to feed it to. The winter of 1927 and 1928 was cold and long and there was a shortage of feed for the cattle. We were able to trade some of our hay and green feed for dairy cows. We milked cows for the rest of the time we remained on the farm.

All of our spare time was used for clearing the land. This was a heavy job and we didn't get much done in a day. The old timers said "It took a strong back and a weak mind, an axe and a grub hook to be good at it." In 1930 we broke 30 acres and threshed 3800 bushels of oats. It weighed 46 pounds to a bushel. Prices for grain and livestock dropped and continued to go down until the war years. In certain cases, the cost of the hauling took most of the payment for the products sold.

Our land was new and rich but the kind of grain that we planted couldn't ripen in the fall before the frost came. In the 1930's we were able to get some new varieties of seed in our community which was a great improvement. Fertilizer now helped us so that we could seed late in the spring and could still get a good crop before winter. It was the Olie barley that gave us a great boost.

In our community the Church in Dickson was the only place that we could gather. This is where our children were baptized, confirmed and some of them married before we left Dickson.

We lived for 33 years on the farm and forgetting the hardships and remembering the good things which happened to us, we must say that Dickson is where we spent our best years.

We raised a large family and taught them to help with the work that was to be done. Today they are good citizens spread all over Alberta and British Columbia. We have learned to depend on God through good days as well as difficult days. Canada has been good to us and our children — Ruth, Esther, Carla, Dagny, Eva, Cai, Astrid, Inga, Sigrid, Ingrid and Benny.

SOREN JENSEN by Arne and Bodil

Mr. and Mrs. Soren Jensen came from Denmark to Standard in 1920. After farming there for several years, the last three were drought years, they moved to Dickson in 1932 and bought Mr. S.P. Lonneberg's farm, south of Dickson.

After paying moving expenses, he had \$20.00 and three fresh milk cows, thinking shipping cream from the cows would pay the groceries. Dad bought a cream can on credit from Mr. Morkeberg who deducted 25 cents from each shipment of cream until the can was paid for. One time he thought that the cheque was too small to send. It was for 15 cents after he had deducted the 25 cents, that amounted to 40 cents for cream from three fresh cows. There wasn't much to buy groceries with. A 200 lb. pig brought \$3.20 less freight charges. Dad bought a sow from Chris Morck for \$8.00 and she had 10 piglets.

In 1937 the first caterpillar tractor with brush cutter came into the district, and hundreds of acres were cleared and broken in the Dickson area.

Dad and Mom sold their farm to Bob McLerie in 1963 and retired in Calgary. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary, July 13, 1970. In 1970 they sold an acreage to Mr. Fred Fischer who operates "The Riverside Apiary". Jensens have one quarter left in the area.

They have six children; Robert who married Karen Nielsen in Denmark in 1942, came back in 1945 to farm east of Dickson. In 1967 he sold part of the farm to Bruce Olson, and now lives in Calgary. They have one daughter Alice, two sons, Ivan and Verner.

Svend married Leda Jensen of Standard in 1945, they are farming in Hussar. They have two daughters: Delores and Phyllis, one son Earl.

Arne married Jytte Larsen in Denmark in 1951, came back in 1952 to take up farming and later bought the Pete Sorensen farm where they are still residing. They have two daughters Leila and Eleanor, two sons Karsten and Ralph.

Bodil married Borup Gundersen. They have three daughters Lucille, Doris and Brenda.

Edith married Tage Sorensen in Denmark in 1949, came back in 1950, and tried farming for awhile. In 1956 they founded the Danish Home Bakery in Calgary. They have two sons, Soren and Gary, two daughters Margit and Lona.

Marion married Joe Saske. They have one daughter Darcy. A few years later she divorced Joe and recently married Harold Anderson. They make their home in Calgary.

H.P. JORGENSEN - by Connie Potter

Mr. H.P. Jorgensen, born in Denmark on June 22, 1868; came to Canada with his wife and four children, by boat May 4, 1904. They settled on a homestead 1-1/2 miles west of Dickson where they built a log house and a hill-in barn. (Barn built in a hillside).

The Jorgensen's, as well as several other Danish families, were concerned that their children might forget the Danish language in this new country. To solve this problem, classes were conducted two or three times a week at the home of Rev. Gundersen, where he taught the children to read and write in Danish. When the first school was established at Dickson, the Jorgensen children, Olga, Meta, John and Connie were enrolled there. The first teacher at Dickson was Miss Elmhurst. The family also attended church and Sunday School which in those early days was held in different homes, conducted by Rev. Gundersen.

As times were hard, Mr. Jorgensen had to work away from home much of the time, breaking land around Dickson in the summer and working at the saw mills in the winter. Connie vividly remembers one year when Mr. Jorgensen did not have time to put up a wood pile for the winter. She recalls that they took a tamarack rail fence, rail by rail into the house and sawed it up there as it was so cold and the snow was so deep that year.

In the years before the drainage system was put in, there were plenty of good swimming holes and skating ponds for the children to play on.

In 1911, the family moved to Innisfail where Mr. Jorgensen operated a feed mill. They lived on a farm 1 mile south of Innisfail which they rented from Schafers. The children then attended the Innisfail school.

In 1927 they sold the business and bought a farm near the Raven river and one at Kevissville which was later sold. They resided on the Raven farm until retirement.

Mrs. Jorgensen passed away in 1933, Mr. Jorgensen in 1948. Three of the four children have since passed on, leaving one surviving member of the family, Connie, who is married to George Potter of Spruce View.

CHARLIE KING

Charlie King came here in 1903 with his wife Elizabeth and some of their children. As Charles was 55 years old at that time most of their family had left their paternal home. They took up homestead land. Elizabeth assisted several of the women in the district at childbirth as she was an accomplished mid-wife. In 1911 Mr. King sold the homestead to Carl Lorensen and moved to Washington. The King children were Myrtle, Mabel, Julin and Raymond. Raymond revisited the old homestead in 1967.

CHRISTEN KJEARSGAARD by Arne Kjearsgaard

Christen A. Kjearsgaard immigrated to Canada in the fall of 1927. The story had reached his ears many times that Canada was a land of milk and honey, so Chris decided to come over, make his fortune and send for his family as soon as possible.

He first worked for Fred Pedersen in Dickson, and later for Edgar Jensen in the Raven area. In six months time he decided to send for his wife and family, even though he had not made the fortune he had dreamed of, his wife Eleanora, two sons — Arne and Andrew, two daughters — Elsie and Kirsti. They arrived in the spring of 1928.

The family lived at Jensen's for approximately six months, then moved to Dickson and stayed there until the homestead was purchased beside the Red Deer river, three and a half miles south of Dickson. In 1930 another girl was added to the family. Martha was born where Odin Larsens now live.

Eleanora and Christen lived on the farm until they moved to Edmonton in 1949. After Eleanora died in 1951, Christen went back to Denmark and stayed till his death in 1968. In 1967 he came back to visit his family and all his old friends. While living in the Dickson area, he took care of the cemetery, and planted the trees that still stand today.

GORDON AND DOROTHY KROGH AND FAMILY

Gordon E. was born in 1921 at Travers, Alberta, of Norwegian-Danish parents. His parents were forced to abandon their farm because of severe drought, so in 1926, they moved with their nine children to

the Stauffer district. They later purchased a farm north of the present Stauffer store which became the family farm. Difficult days followed which were saddened by the death of Gordon's father Louis in 1935. The three younger boys managed to maintain the farm with the mother's help. Mrs. Mina Krogh, spry and alert at 86, resides at Sylvan Lake Lodge.

Dorothy C. Hjalmsen — Icelandic origin, was raised on the family farm at New Hill. She received her schooling at New Hill and completed high school at Dickson in 1944, boarding at "Verbena" Dormitory, one half mile south of the high school.

It was a privilege to be one of Miss Elsa Gundersen's students, who was principal and main high school teacher at that time. Her "motto" was portrayed in a wall hanging in the Grade XI-XII room which read "There are three things that make life lovely — the beauty of reverence, the dignity of patience and the joy of usefulness." Surely these thoughts prompted many a young life to seek the better way.

Life at the "Dorm" was an experience in itself. With 25 girls living under one roof! They came from many outlying areas, also a number of boys received meals there but were lodged in nearby homes. Imagine \$10-\$15 per mo. for room and board! Coal oil lamps were used and never forget the lumpy straw mattresses and dumb-waiter rides! Matrons, 1941-1944 were Miss Thora Thompson, Miss Lily Lunem and Mrs. A. Anderson.

Later, Dorothy was assigned teaching jobs at Buster Creek (16 mi. N.W. Rocky), Dovercourt, and New Knowledge. Mr. F. Barnes was School Supt., an "inspiration" to young teachers. In order to reach home for Christmas, Dorothy walked the railroad bridge into Rocky, as ice on the N. Sask. River had stopped the ferry's operation.

Dorothy met Gordon while at the N.K. school, they married in July 1947 and lived on the farm at Stauffer.

Blessed with five children — Lynda, Audrey, Tanya, Heather, Byron. First 10 years were "fascinating" — no electricity, much stove wood to chop and many baby bottles to warm! Humor salved many a frustrating situation.

Fall of 1960 the family purchased the 1/2 section, 1/2 mi. west of Dickson from E. Larsen.

Lynda received her R.N. degree in 1969, from Calgary Gen. Hosp., later employed there. July 4, 1970 she married Iain Wagstaff, Elnora, they reside in Calgary.

Audrey completed 2 yrs. University, trained in security services, now employed as detective in Vancouver. Tanya is working as a dental assistant. Heather and Byron in grades 11 and 9. They have all been active in sports and 4-H Beef Club work. The family attends the Church of the Nazarene in Caroline.

KURE FAMILY by Elmer Kure

Arthur E. Kure was born in Denmark June 6, 1897 and went to sea at 14 with a merchant sailship.

While in a U.S. west coast post he decided to make America his home in 1912 and worked at various jobs, later on a farm in Illinois, U.S.A.

Art Kure met Mayme Andersen who was born in Peru, Illinois March 15, 1895, and they were married at Ottawa, Illinois in 1916.

Two sons, Russell and Elmer were born in Illinois and one son, Gordon and daughter, Shirley were born in Innisfail after the family moved to the Dickson District in 1924.

The Kures having farmed in the corn country of Illinois brought a carload of equipment with them to Alberta including a Fordsen tractor, one of the first field models used in this area.

The family farm NW-6-36-2-W5 was purchased from an early resident, Mr. Henry Larson. Later a second quarter of land was purchased from Melvin Bankroft.

Arthur and Mayme Kure were Lutherans and joined Bethany Lutheran Church of Dickson together with the family. Arthur has been a member of the Church Council, the board of the Dickson Drainage system and many other community organizations in which both were active.

Mayme Kure passed away in 1957 and Arthur Kure retired from active farming in 1962 and at time of writing lives with daughter Shirley at Wildwood Manor, one-half mile south of Dickson.

The oldest son, Russell born July 17, 1917 took his schooling in Dickson later taking a diesel engineers course. He married Monica Warner of Estevan, Sask. and have three sons, Billy, Ronny and Daryl and one daughter Kathy. The family now lives in Calgary where Russ carries on a real estate business.

Elmer Kure was born November 30, 1921 taking his schooling at Dickson. He married Helga Hindbo October 31, 1943 and has one son, Colin and two daughters Janice and Michele. All children attended the present Spruce View School with Colin and Janice attending college at Olds. Colin now farms together with his parents in the district, on land which was the old Jack Riley farm.

Gordon Kure born October 24, 1929 attended Dickson school and married Goody Jorgensen and has 2 sons, Kenny and Brian. Gordon purchased land which was formerly owned by one of the earliest residents, the Anton Laursens. Their farm is located between the hamlets of Dickson and Spruce View. They raise sheep along with grain and cattle.

Shirley Kure born October 14, 1931 attended school also in Dickson and now lives with her father south of Dickson on the property formerly used as the Dicksons girls dorm.

The Arthur Kure farm was named Spruce Lawn farm and some of the closest neighbours were early pioneers, the Fred Pedersons and Laus Christensen to the south. It was often said, though the neighbours were all one-half mile away, when Fred Pederson laughed or Laus sneezed or when Mayme Kure called "dinner" all the neighbours could hear.

ANDREW LARSEN by Meta Larsen

Andrew Larsen was born in Denmark and came to Boston, U.S.A. in 1907. In 1910 he came to Calgary where he worked as a carpenter until moving to Dickson in 1921.

He married Meta Laursen and they lived on rented land until 1926 when they bought a quarter section of school land from the government: NE11-36-3-W5. They broke up the land and put buildings on it while Andrew continued to do carpenter work for other people.

In 1936 the government asked to have the place for an experimental station. Both federal and provincial governments were involved in this, and they wanted to try out all kinds of seed grain to find out which was best suited to the district. They also kept purebred hogs, chickens, etc. A shelter belt was planted in 1940, north of the buildings, to enable us to grow fruit trees and shrubs. The trees produced fruit within a few years. The crabapples did especially well and are still bearing (1972) and being sold by the present owners Mr. and Mrs. Bill Taylor.

Lots of work was involved in this new project, all the buildings, barns, chicken coops, etc. had to be whitewashed and kept very sanitary.

Each summer one or two Field Days, were held when as many as four hundred people would attend. Either the Dickson or Spruce View ladies would set up a booth to sell soft drinks and snacks. Picnic baskets were brought along and Larsens made the coffee. After the men toured the fields, speeches were given by the government men, on the different types of hay and crops. Anyone who wished could buy the seed from Andrew. In the meantime the ladies listened to interesting talks given by the District Nurse or a Dietician.

During the war years it was impossible to get help so in 1942, Larsens sold the farm to John Sandberg. Andrew helped organize and build the first Co-op Store which was built on his land. He served on the board of directors as well as being first president of the Spruce View hall. Meta and Andrew both worked hard to get the hall started.

Meta was a member of the Ladies Aid and the Spruce View Red Cross and did her share of sewing and knitting for the armed forces.

In 1943 they moved to Innisfail where Andrew built stackers; sweeps, etc. to help the farmers during the war, as iron could not be bought. He went out into the country and bought old machinery which he made over in his blacksmith shop - a trade he had learned in Denmark.

In June 1951 Andrew and Meta moved back to Dickson and took over her parents farm. They broke up more land and rebuilt over by the main road. But he did not get finished, as he passed away in 1952. Gordon Kure bought the farm and finished the buildings. Meta has since made her home in Calgary.

There were two children: Kenneth and Eva. Both attended school in Dickson.

Kenneth joined the navy in 1939 and served throughout World War II. On his return he was

stationed at Halifax, Victoria and Ottawa. Since his retirement from the navy in 1971, he is with the Coast Guard and stationed at Sydney, Nova Scotia. He is married and has three daughters.

Eva went to Calgary to take a business course and then her nurses training. She married Herbert Bond and they have three children. They live at Priddis, Alberta.

HENRY LARSEN by Thorvald Larsen

My folks and we three kids immigrated to Dickson in 1903.

My dad, Henry Larsen was a bricklayer by profession but homesteaded in the Dickson District. There were five families, and three young men that immigrated at that time from Omaha Neb. U.S.A. They were members of the United Danish Lutheran Church Omaha Neb.

My father, Henry Larsen, helped to build the Dickson Church and parsonage.

We are three brothers, Arthur, William, Thorvald, Clara, my sister, was born in Dickson, 1905 and was the first child to be baptised in the Dickson congregation.

The first houses were built of logs with sod roofs. I can still remember that there was no snow at that time.

It was very difficult to get around as there was much water and no roads, so to speak. We were all like one big family. All families would join together and send an order to T. Eaton Co. Winnipeg, and the goods would all be shipped in one large crate, then we all joined in to unpack. This was a great time.

An awful hailstorm came through the Dickson District. I think the year was 1910. There was not a thing left, everything was pounded in the ground. There are still signs on the north side of many of the trees as it peeled the bark off the trees. This has left the bark a dark color.

As the years went by things improved, of course with all the rainy weather, the roads were almost impossible. I recall that we could almost sail from our place to the Dickson Church, we lived 1 mile east and 1 mile north. Fred Pedersen lost a couple of nice horses as they disappeared through the muskeg immediately south of his farm, 1 mile east of Dickson.

It took a whole day to make a trip to Innisfail by buggy or wagon and generally we wouldn't arrive home until late.

In the years 1908-1910 the threshing was done with a crew of approximately 15 men to operate. The power was developed with about 8 or 9 horses moving in a circle to drive the motor. The straw was elevated from the separator by a belt and of course the machine was hand fed.

The following 4 or 5 years Herbert Westergaard did our threshing. He had a more up to date machine.

LARS C. "CHRIS" LARSEN by Mrs. Ethel Barr

In July 1903, my parents Lars. C. Larsen, born in Denmark, my mother Emma Bertha (Tigh), was born in Ill. U.S.A. and myself Ethel (Barr) came to Canada from Omaha, Nebraska when I was eleven months



Lars "Chris" Larsen family — L. to R.: Father, Grace, Herbert, Carrie, Ethel, Mother.

old. We travelled by train with household effects, furniture and cattle.

When we got to our destination at the homestead, we pitched our tent on the N.E. Section 6. Carl Christiansen had the S.E. Section 6. Fred Pedersen on S.W. Section 6. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Larsen, their three sons, Arthur, William and Thorvald came a few months later and obtained the N.W. Section 6. There also came four bachelors including Chris Christiansen, a brother to Mrs. Carl C. Christiansen.

Some were lucky to get their log house built before the winter set in, where we still had our tent, and it was a very cold winter.

On February 15th, 1904, my sister Grace was born in the tent, the first baby born in Dickson. She now lives in Regina, Sask. My brother, Herbert Edward was born in our log house, in August 9, 1905. He lived in Omaha, Nebraska, but is now retired after 40 years of service with the city of Omaha and lives in Bowden, Alberta. A sister Caroline "Carrie" was born Nov. 28 1906. Brother Lawrence, now a resident of Bowden, was born in 1911 in the new home built by S.P. Lonneberg, who was a wonderful carpenter.

We all attended the public school at Dickson and Sunday School. We often talk of the hardships as well as the good times, such as the very cold winters, walking 2-1/2 miles to school in 30 to 40 below zero, on different occasions getting frost bite on my face. The teacher rubbed snow on it. At times the snow was very deep and we often encountered a blizzard before getting home at night.

When it got too bad, we had to stay home two or three weeks during January and February. Mother helped us a lot with our school work, being a school teacher herself back in Iowa, U.S.A.

In later years, we travelled with horse and sleigh or buggy. There used to be a lake in front of our place on the farm, where we spent hours in a boat father had built and in the winter time we used to skate a lot. There was a special swimming hole in the creek, but a dredging outfit came into the district and drained all the sloughs and lakes into the creek. That was the end of our pleasure.

We all worked hard on the farm in those days, milking cows before going to school, looking after the cattle, haying in the summer, cutting and sawing wood in the winter. We lived on the farm 19 years, where Niels Lind family now live.

My folks left the farm in 1922 and moved to Calgary. The farm was sold in 1924. Father died in Calgary in 1930. Mother died in West Summerland at a Rest Home in 1946.

ODIN AND ANNA LARSEN

In the northern part of Sjaeland Denmark lived a young man whose name was that of a great Viking god "Odin".

To the ears of this young farmer came inviting stories of a vast land across the ocean called America. Little was known for certain, but everyone became rich in five years.

In the spring of 1928, Odin Larsen together with his wife Anna and children Aage and Rigmor ages five and two respectively, said their farewells and sailed for the unknown.

The journey, that must have seemed like a trip to the moon, ended in the Chancellor, Cluny area. OH! the promised land. Where was the milk and the honey? Yes, this was the prairie, a far cry from lush green Denmark. Well, so what. They were young and spines tingled at the thoughts of the future. As farming had been a way of life, in Denmark, so was it to be here. However, for immigrant and native alike, this was to be the beginning of a new era. "The depression of the dirty thirties" and drought of the prairies.

These had been the years when the steam engines powered the huge threshers that gobbled up golden wheat sheaves. Drought, no more wheat, dust storms, Russian thistle and tumble weed all but covered steamers and fences. At this time rich and poor became alike, and "Give us this day our daily bread" had real meaning.

Like all true pioneers, the man with the name of a god did not look back. As a side line in winter Odin became an expert trapper. The badger, the weasel jack rabbit became a blessing. Anna (better known as Nanna) made the best butter in the area, which had a great trade in value at the grocery store.

By 1932, stories were being told of a place called "Dickson." At least it rained up there, and, so they said, the grass was green. Could anyone remember what green fields looked like?

The decision was made. A box car was spotted at C.P.R. siding in Chancellor some eight miles away. Everything they owned had become very precious so everything was loaded.

Slowly the freight train, with a passenger car added, chugged away with the Larsen family and their belongings. As they looked back, it was goodbye to dust storms, Russian thistle and tumble weed. They had to admit, that in spite of all, they had been good years. Life had been a real challenge and the friends they left behind would always be remembered.

In Calgary, Odin stayed with the stock in the box car, which was added to a regular freight. Nanna and the children went on in a regular passenger train which reached Innisfail at three o'clock in the morning. Everything was pitch black and cold. A mother alone with two sleepy children try the station door, open it, so very carefully push the

children in! bang, flat on the floor they fell, got up, fell again. Groans and curses arose, and as the intruders eyes became accustomed to the darkness — behold a dozen hobos sleeping in a big circle around C.P.R.'s warm stove. By daylight the newcomers finally decided that these people were harmless. Soon the freight rolled in and what a reunion. Six hours of a family separation seemed like six years.

The box car was spotted by the stock yards and cattle were unloaded to be fed and milked. As the freight train steamed on likewise the hobos melted away.

Soon the Larsen band were on their way to the Modern cafe. A small round faced Chinaman named George made them feel at home while he served breakfast and was also most helpful in making final arrangements for the last part of the trip to Dickson.

The first night spent in a boarding house was also their first introduction to some very strange bed fellows. Ho-bos were harmless but a little bed bug attacked a person when asleep. That was the pay off.

The destination was one mile south and two and one half miles west of the Dickson store, the south quarter section which is now Borup Gundersen's. As before, Mother and children went on ahead, aboard a truck loaded to the hilt, Odin, with the help of Arnfeld Morck and other young riders were to drive the stock.

April — the frost had just gone out. One mile south of Dickson (known as Lunds corner) the truck, carrying Anna and the children, all but disappeared in what people referred to as a "mud hole". To prairie people this was as strange as a bed bug. In the process the truck broke an axle. So in footwear that left much to be desired under the conditions, a small three marched west.

Added to the wonderful smell of spring was a strange burnt odor, and in many places smoke was rising out of the ground, but no flames. Later they were told they were just ground fires.

By and by a new home was established, new friends and a new kid to beat up in school. Also the introduction to a few hail storms that could almost make the Russian thistle and cactus look good again.

In the spring of 1937, Odin still sought adventure. He bought the Neils Madsen place in Dickson and there started a trucking business. His first truck was a 1936, one and a half ton. A year later he set up a stockyard and weigh scale and bought livestock for Mountain View Co-op Association. Eventually the business was sold to Paul Christensen who later sold to Ansgar Hansen who is still operating the trucking business.

During his trucking years, Odin bought the Carl Thomsen farm three and one half miles west of Dickson. By this time the new venture was for son Aage and his bride Elsie, daughter of Eleanor and Chris Kjeersgaard. The new undertaking blessed their home with three children, Vita, Daniel and Deborah. Daniel married Wendy Lewis. Vita is a Physical

Education teacher in Edmonton, Deborah is at home, attending high school.

During the years, Mr. and Mrs. Larsen were active in affairs of Bethany Lutheran Church. For many years, Anna served as Sunday School teacher for the kindergarten class. Many parents that now have children of their own have at one time sat on Missy Larsen's lap (this is what they called their teacher) and listened to stories told from the Bible.

Odin served several years on the church council in the capacity of Treasurer.

Daughter Rigmor married television technician Joe Thompson of Calgary, where they are presently residing.

After selling their business, Odin and Anna spent a number of years as managers of the Bethany home for the aged in Calgary. When time came to slow down, they moved back to Dickson retiring in their original home.

MAX LAURITZEN

Max Lauritzen came to Dickson in 1936. After working for several farmers he purchased Jack Shannon's farm in 1940, sold to Odin Larsen and purchased Mr. R.P. Nielsen's farm in 1943.

Max was active in the church and taught Sunday School at Crooked Creek for ten years.

He visited Denmark for Christmas in 1951 and married Christa Christensen in 1952.

Not having the time to observe the Danish custom of having marriage banns announced for 3 consecutive Sundays, Max had to get permission from the King to get married so he could bring his bride back to Canada.

They have three children: Egon, Bodil and Ruth.

PETE LAURITZEN

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Lauritzen and daughter Ruth came to Dickson in 1945 and purchased the J.C. Nielsen Farm.

Mrs. Lauritzen had her own project, in that she had 300 hens and sold hatching eggs at an average of 120 dozen a week. Later on when disease hit the flock Pete changed to raising and selling wiener pigs. He had 40 to 50 sows. They sold their farm to Eric Hansen in 1961 and purchased a house and acreage from Mrs. Pete Adamsen, where they still live. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1971.

Their daughter Ruth married Ron Smith and they have two children.

MR. AND MRS. ANTON LAURSEN by Meta Larsen

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Laursen came to Dickson in May 1905 from Kennard Nebraska, U.S.A. Anton was born in Denmark and emigrated to Nebraska in 1895, where he married Maren Christensen, May 25, 1897. They lived in Kennard while Anton worked on the railroad.

They knew of a Danish settlement being started at Dickson and their friend Fred Pedersen had come to Canada the year before. Anton came up by railroad bringing along a few cows and chickens, a wagon and democrat, some machinery and household furniture.

They settled on the homestead on which they had filed prior to coming — SW12-36-3-W5.

That summer they lived in a tent while Anton went out around Caroline to cut logs and saw the lumber for a house which they built in the fall. The house which they moved into in November, was made of one layer of lumber and one layer of tar paper. The first winter proved to be a very cold one at that.

While living in the tent they experienced a very severe wind and hail storm where trees were torn up all around them but luckily none fell on the tent. For a while after the storm, the cattle had to go five miles to get enough grass to eat but everything grew very fast afterwards as a result of the moisture.

The land had to be broken up and this was done with a walking plow and two horses. Their only income was from the sale of a few eggs and some butter which they made. But neighbors and friends went together and helped when help was needed.

One year a prairie fire came within a few feet of their house and barn but luck was with them and by making a backfire they were able to turn it the other way.

Mr. and Mrs. Laursen took a keen interest in the church and taught Sunday School all their adult lives, as long as they were able.

Mrs. Laursen brought one root of rhubarb from Nebraska and divided it into six roots. She planted it in the sod and each year divided some more until finally the rhubarb patch was larger than most gardens. Rhubarb she sold by the hundreds of pounds, to people over a large area besides giving away as much to friends and neighbors. All the money she received was given to the Missions.

Laursens also owned NW1-36-3-W5.

In 1947 they built a little house in Dickson and moved there where they lived until 1952. Mrs. Laursen kept busy with her crocheting. They went to Calgary and lived with their daughter Christine until their passing, Anton in December 1961 and Maren in March 1962. Both are buried at Dickson.

They had two daughters: Meta (Larsen) and Christine (Wickes) who attended school at Dickson. Christine took a business course and did office work. She and her husband lived in Manitoba until moving back to Calgary in 1938. They had two children: Phyllis (Mrs. Tom Harris) of Naramata, B.C. has one son; Reginald is married with three children and lives in Calgary.

Meta married Andrew Larsen.

NELS LIND

Nels Lind came to Dickson in 1931 and married Christiane Christensen, of Denmark, the same year. They bought the Captain Andersen farm.

They have five children, Aksel, Eddy, Edith, Carl and Emma.

Mrs. Lind suffered a stroke several years ago and is a patient in the Bethany Chronic Hospital, Calgary. Mr. Lind retired to Calgary in 1969.

Their son Aksel married Nancy Jones. They purchased the home place.

S.P. LONNEBERG Memo by the late S.P. Lonneberg:

"On our arrival in Dickson we could hardly believe our eyes when we stopped outside of the post office. Could this really be the Dickson that was so much talked about. There was nothing but a log house with a sod roof and high weeds growing from the roof of the post office which gave it a strange appearance.

We were used to living in a large city, but now we had to realize that we were pioneers. It was hard for me, I had hardly driven a team of horses before, but now I had to make the trip of 22 miles to Innisfail occasionally. The worst part of the trip was to cross the Medicine River where there was no bridge. The horses took a real ducking and it was still worse when the water was so high that it came into the wagon so that our groceries such as sugar and flour etc. got wet. These were just small troubles compared to what we had to go through in the first winter of 1906-1907.

The Chinooks which usually came through the mountains occasionally to break the cold spells, didn't occur that winter at all. We had a large family and it took a large quantity of food and clothing for them. Our house was in poor condition and our financial income was just about nil. It was hard to get food for the few animals that we had. The farmers often had to drive 10 to 15 miles for a load of straw. This winter stands out in our memory as the hardest winter in 40 years.

The hope of building a church was very much alive. The first pioneers who had come had already secured a piece of land for the building of a church and a parsonage the year after they had arrived (1904). They had started to build but there wasn't enough money to continue. The influx of immigrants continued and the land south and west of the settlement was taken. Because of this the church wasn't in the centre of the settlement, so there was much disagreement about where the location of the church should be. It developed into such a serious disagreement that for a time there was a split in the congregation. Pastor Gundersen against his will became involved in the situation and had to resign as pastor. Pastor Gundersen was a peace loving man and he was very humble. This he showed by always being willing to serve when no other pastor was available, on both sides of the split congregation. He stayed on the farm and held church services in the surrounding districts. He went as far as Olds and even to Calgary to preach. God's Spirit and brotherly love helped us to solve our disagreements and we finally chose a new location for the church and parsonage. The congregation was reorganized and took the name of Bethany Lutheran Church instead of name "Pella" as it had previously been named.

Marius Eliassen gave 5 acres of land for the church and L.B. Christensen gave 5 acres for the parsonage. Soon there were enough children of school age for the government to build a school for them. The school was built and was also used for meetings and for church gatherings.

The winter of 1907 and 1908 was one of the mildest winters that we had. The people of the congregation went out to cut trees for lumber. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company allowed them to cut 20,000 feet. The following year they built the parsonage. Despite the poverty and many other difficulties, they persevered. They wanted to build a church but they didn't have the means to do so, but love will always find a way.

The most of us had a few cattle and each gave a steer calf from their herd, pastured it during the summer and in the fall they were sold and brought in a good sum of money. Pastor Magnussen who had taken Pastor Gundersen's place, took a trip to the States and was able to collect \$600.00 to help with the building of the church. The church was built by a carpenter in 1911 and is still a landmark. Thanks be to God and man. When I sit and think about the many disappointments, I have to admit it was far from easy. We had frozen grain almost every year. It rained almost continuously so we had to harvest our hay out of the water in the sloughs.

The income was very limited for the farmers. Most had some milk cows but there was no market for the cream. We were so far from the main market. With the help of two influential men, Dr. Marker, the dairy commissioner for Alberta, and D. Morkeberg and with the help of the Alberta government, a Co-operative Creamery was started in Markerville. The Creamery was later turned over to private ownership. It is operated by D. Morkeberg who has a dairy farm in Markerville. The weekly cream cheque helped the situation greatly and gave the farmers great encouragement.

It was difficult to get the cream transported 10 miles because of the poor roads. Perly Tromburg took the contract to haul the cream to Markerville. He had two large barrels on his wagon and drove from farm to farm to pick up the cream. The cream was put into barrels and then he used a measuring stick to measure how much each man's cream measured in the barrel and by this measurement each man received his portion of the pay. Later on this system was changed and each man supplied his own cream can and was paid according to the amount of the butter fat that he had sent in.

We also have many beautiful memories that far outweigh the many hardships. We have seen God's kingdom bloom among us. I remember how our first minister, Pastor Gundersen without any thought of his own comfort sought to get all people under the influence of God's Word, not only those who were near, but as far out as he could reach.

Pastor Magnussen also is remembered, who never neglected to visit the church members in the beginning of the week if they had been absent from the church service on Sunday. I think about the high school that was started later and of all the young people who came from far and near to receive their education. They were also taught the word of God. The congregation has a home mission through the

influence of the school. Thanks be to God it has been very fruitful."

Mr. and Mrs. S.P. Lonneberg came to Dickson in 1906. Mr. Lonneberg was a handyman and could supervise construction of many kinds. He was builder of the greater number of houses around here, including the church and the old parsonage, Sylvan Lake Bible camp, and the Bible School at Camrose. He could install furnaces and what not. He never refused to help out if possible, and he did it with all his ability. He acted as councillor for several years, and for many years was on the school board. He was a very efficient toastmaster. He never spared himself when he could promote education for the young people. For some years he was President of the congregation and Bible class teacher. Mr. Lonneberg died in 1945. His wife was also very capable; she passed away in 1941. There were thirteen children: Paul, Katrina, Esther, Clarence, Ida, Ingvard, Harold, Wilfred, Milton, Mildred, Helen, Leslie, Eleanor.

A.C. LORENZEN

Anton Carl Lorenzen was born at Romo, Denmark on December 1865. He came to America to Louisiana in 1885 where he worked in the cotton gins for a few years. He then came to Canada in 1892, settling at White Rock, B.C. where he drove oxen teams in the logging camps and farmed until 1911. When he moved to Alberta settling in the Dickson district he bought the King place on the Raven River which he farmed until he retired in 1947. (NW28-35-3-W5). He, then lived in Edmonton and Calgary for a few years. With his long beard which he let grow in 1942 and never shaved off again, he was fondly thought of as Grandpa, although he was never married. At Christmas the little children on the streets would call him Santa and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. He was always quick to think of ways not to disappoint them and would tell them to write a letter to Santa and give it to their mother to mail as he couldn't remember it all. Carl is best remembered for the time he got tired of selling his steers for next to nothing and instead butchered them himself and gave the meat away to people who were in need of food. For years he had a Danish picnic on the 24th of May to celebrate Victoria Day. He was particularly good to other people's children. In 1947 he sold the farm



Danish picnic at A. C. Lorenzens.



Mr. A. C. Lorenzen.

to Adolph Raun and went to live with Mr. and Mrs. Willy Graunkjer. He spent the last two years of his life at Bethany Hospital in Calgary where he celebrated his 100th and 101st birthday. He passed away July 23, 1967, almost two years older than Canada. He was honored by both Dominion and Provincial governments and Queen Elizabeth II.

CHRIS LYNGAARD

Chris Lyngaard, wife and three sons, Alvin, Howard and Victor came to Dickson in 1926, and rented Carl Christiansen's original homestead.

Mr. Lyngaard was an exterior, interior painter, as well as paper hanger and was much in demand for these jobs. They left the Dickson area, about 1938, moving to Council Bluffs Iowa, U.S.A. Mrs. Lyngaard died a few years ago and Mr. Lyngaard in 1973.

ROBERT MCLERIE

Robert (Bob) McLerie came to Alberta from Manitoba as a young lad of fourteen. He married Jean McInnis of Midnapore. In 1963 they moved to Dickson having bought the farm of Soren Jensen.

Their children are - Heather, Cameron, Margaret and Duncan.

THE MCKEAN FAMILY - by Clarice McKean

The family of Fergus Smith McKean B.Sc., L.L.D., his wife Addie Josephine McKean, and daughter Clarice Eleanor McKean came to Dickson in March 1910 from Bruce Wisconsin, over the Soo Line, via Portal. Mr. McKean came first by immigrant entrance car. The quota required was one horse, Ginny, a fine thoroughbred mare for admittance to Canada as a settler. The owner had to ride in the car to protect the livestock, farm machinery, and household effects. All this was law and must be observed. Women folk were not required to ride in an immigrant car but came by coach separately.

We settled on the NE22-35-3-W5 having traded our Wisconsin property to Rudolf Lundgren, twin brother to Axel Lundgren, father of Rudolf Lundgren on the river road to Kevisville, then called Red Raven. This property and all that was added to it over the years still remains a heritage to the McKean family. I believe this C.P.R. land was called the Nels Kolding place. The odd numbered sections were



Mr. and Mrs. F. S. McKean.

C.P.R. land while the even numbered sections were homestead land after the survey, whereby section corners were marked by four small square holes in the ground with an inscribed iron peg driven in the mound of sod in the centre. These mounds helped men to identify their holding. It is doubtful you can find one intact today.

Distance was measured by pole gates at each settler's building spot. There were twelve such gates from the McKean place to Steve Benson's at Red Raven, probably nearly five miles if that could be determined. Roads were not on road allowances beyond the Medicine River but followed the trails along the hog backs from one beaver dam to another, around the beaver meadows and numerous lakes. Free range extended from the Spurgeon Flats on the Medicine and beyond the Raven to Prairie Creek and the Clearwater and north to Budvarson's. Keeping track of range cattle and horses, required good saddle horses and good riders.

F.S. McKean brought the first binder, a five foot Deering to Dickson. It required a four horse, not three horse team, and had a bundle carrier and an open tail gate so that the elevator canvas could carry up bundles longer or taller than five feet. Also for community good as was proven afterwards by many neighbors Mr. McKean brought the first horse powered trundle bar, wood saw to the settlement. He also brought the first Sulky Riding Plow.

The McKears first met Henry Wise Wood founder of the U.F.A. at a picnic at Hale Lake in 1910. Mr. McKean was intensely interested in the U.F.A. movement and the cooperative farmers' unions. Alfred Speakman M.L.A. from Antler Hill district and later head of the Soldier's Settlement Board, Ottawa, after World War I was often a guest at our house. Likewise Donald Cameron Sr. M.P.P. came often from his home at Elnora. The legal advice of a good lawyer was very welcome and freely given especially when the U.F.A. government of 1921 was in its infancy.

Before the war of 1914-18 we worked together well as neighbors for the common good. We had an efficient, year round egg circle kept by Mrs. Chris Enghauge. Eggs were taken to Innisfail by sled or wagon and shipped to Calgary. Further, cream was gathered, kept, cooled, and hauled to the Woodland Dairy depot at Innisfail to be shipped to Edmonton. This creamery was operated by Willie Hansen helped

by his wife Elsie Hansen (nee Elsie Adamsen) of Dickson. When the cream went to Innisfail each man took his turn without pay and hauled a load of supplies back to Carl Christiansen's Dickson Store. A "beef ring" was formed for the butchering, cutting, and distribution of one prime steer yearly in twenty portions. We received the meat all back evenly before the year was out. Chris Hansen was an expert at this work.

Drainage was a vital problem before beaver dams were cut and road allowance ditches were installed. Much farm land today was lake bottom prior to 1903 like Martin's Lake west of Jim Lewis' corner across from which Spruce View now stands on the Caroline Trail. Something had to be done to legalize drainage and cut through going ditches. It is said you could row a boat from Laus (L.B.) Christensen's just north of the Dickson Store to Nelson Brothers in the early days on Dickson Creek. Well something about drainage was done in 1919. Dickson Drainage District No. 1 was formed. Paul Caroe was the first secretary. He was followed by F.S. McKean until his untimely death on October 22, 1932. Then Addie J. McKean took over this work for another ten years. It helped to have someone who could handle legal English fluently and Fergus Smith McKean gave of his time and his ability freely as long as he lived. It proves how much F.S. McKean was esteemed as a good neighbor that his funeral was the largest so far held at the Bethany Lutheran Church at Dickson. The overflow extended clear across the road and up the old 1906 school steps. Pastor Nyholm preached the service from Mr. McKean's favourite, the Twenty-third Psalm.

It says something for Fergus S. McKean's ingrained sense of humility that he never once signed his name with his degrees Bachelor of Science, Doctor of Laws.

Fergus McKean represented Dickson as a charter member of the Mountain View Cooperative Livestock Association. He helped to frame the constitution with Dr. Shimar of Olds as secretary. The two charter members were Bob Stewart of Innisfail and Esper Espersen of Olds. In 1919 Dickson produced more hogs than either Innisfail or Olds. This was a very important cooperative organization before direct trucking into Calgary yards transpired.

Fergus and Addie J. McKean together with Aunt Dell Benson, her sister, Mrs. Jay McKain, Mrs. Alfred Baynham and others were the leading spirits in the formation of the Red Raven Mission held in the old Red Raven School prior to 1916.

The McKean home was ever open to accommodate the student minister summer supply. Some names never to be forgotten are Frank Wheeler out from Oxford; A.G. Lea, later of Kitscoty. Better known was Dr. Thompson, Dean of St. Stephen's College University of Alberta.

Addie J. McKean furnished the rough lumber for the building of the New Raven Mission of 1939 led by David Arthur Stewart.

Later Addie J. McKean was one of the charter members of the Co-Op Store Spruce View. NE27-35-3-W5 was C.P.R. land, the original home place, purchased first by Nels Kolding and later held by Rudolph Lundgren to 1910 when the McKeans took over and still retain. Present owner Carole McKean Norman, Innisfail. Sheila McKean Jurasevich, Dickson owns SW34-35-3-W5 which was homestead land taken by Mrs. Moller. This quarter was commonly called the Nels Jensen place for Mr. Moller's son-in-law.

The SE of 34-35-3-W5 homestead land was taken up by Henry Tromburg 1902. Second owner John Briggs 1909 purchased by Clarice E. McKean 1919. Present owner is Sheila McKean Jurasevich, Dickson.

The south quarter 27-35-3-W5 C.P.R. First owner Arthur Larsen. Present owner Carole McKean Norman.

CHRIS MORCK - by Esther Thesberg

In the fall of 1917 a young couple Chris and Christina Morck with their 3 children Archie, Arnfeld and Esther arrived in Dickson to settle on NW quarter 14T35R3W5 bought from Holger Fabricious. Both had emigrated from Denmark. Chris with brother Marius had decided to go farming near Goodlands, Manitoba. Christina Christensen about the same time had braved the rigours of a sea voyage to spend a year in Canada with her older married sister who was suffering from severe homesickness for her native Denmark. Christina's proposed one year stay was to extend to a lifetime. In a strange country, it was not unusual that the newly arrived Danish immigrants sought the companionship of their own countrymen and thus all the Danish young people in the vicinity of Goodland gathered for social activities; it was here that Chris and Christina met and were married on November 23, 1909. The first years of their married life were spent in Manitoba and also at Glen Ewen Saskatchewan. Having heard from Lutheran Pastors who ministered to the scattered Danish immigrants, about the Danish colony at Dickson, they decided to move to the now well established community. This was a decision that they were never to regret as Dickson truly became their home. Here they both became members of the Bethany Congregation serving in various capacities in the church and community. Chris served for many years on the school board and was involved in the building of the high school and dormitory at Dickson. He was also cream hauler for some years, hauling cream for neighboring farmers to the creamery at Markerville, naturally with horses and wagon or sleigh. He served as president of the Lutheran Welfare society for a number of years and was instrumental in establishing the now very large Bethany Home and Hospital in Calgary. In 1950 and 1953 he won the World fall Rye Championship both at the Toronto Royal fair and also at the Chicago International Show. He won the reserve championship at both places in 1952. While Chris was involved in these and many other activities, Christina faithfully looked after the home and large family, now num-



Chris Morck choosing his championship rye sample.

bering 9 children. One daughter Irene had died in infancy. Times were hard but Christina always managed to provide a good meal for the large brood and for the many visitors who were so much a part of the Morck home life. In 1953 they retired to live their remaining years in Calgary. Mrs. Morck passed away in 1967 and Mr. Morck in 1969.

The children are as follows:

Archie - a Lutheran Pastor married Marion Hansen of Calgary. They have seven children. Archie has served several parishes in Canada. He was for several years president of the West Canada District of the Lutheran Church, and served both on National and International Lutheran boards and was chosen representative to World Council of Churches.

Arnfeld - Also a Lutheran Pastor serving for over 25 years as missionary to Colombia S. America. He married Irene Norre of Dickson who passed away when their infant daughter was only a few months old. He later married Hildar Tharkildson of Portland Oregon. They had 4 more children.

Esther - married Niels Thesberg and they farm in the Heckla district. They have 4 children: 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Thora - married Henry Kemtrup and farm in the New Raven district. They have 3 sons.

Alice - married Axel Brink and lives in the Heckla district. They have 3 sons.

Walter - became a carpenter and married Inga Kromand of Olds where they make their home. Their family consists of 3 sons and 1 daughter.

Oscar - farms the home place. He married Arla Norre and they have a son and 2 daughters.

Ella - married Bob Rose of Ricinus. They live in Calgary where Bob is a stock broker. They have a son and a daughter.

Paul - is a Lutheran Pastor. He married Florence Listol of Saskatoon and at present is serving a parish in Ryder North Dakota.

J.C. NIELSEN

J.C. Nielsen, wife and two sons, Paul and Hans came to Dickson about 1932 and lived on the place owned by Volmar Nielsen. Later they purchased and built the farm stead owned by Eric Hansen.

They were interested in dairying and had jersey cattle for awhile, hence he was given the name "Jersey Nielsen". They were the first farmers to ship whole milk to the Markerville creamery for the making of cheese. Later they were among the first in this area to ship milk to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool at Red Deer.

Paul enlisted in 1941 and went overseas. In 1945 they moved to B.C. where they now live in retirement.

MADS NIELSEN

Mr. and Mrs. Mads Nielsen came to Spruce View in 1934. Both were born in Denmark. Mads in 1892 in Holstebro, Kate Knudsen in 1888 in Horsen. They emigrated first to the U.S. and then to Wayne, Alberta in 1928. Crops in that area were very poor due to the drought and no jobs were available.

In 1934 they purchased land from the Soldier Settlement N.W. - 36 - 3 - w5 and farmed there until 1957 when they retired to Spruce View hamlet. Mads was a plasterer by trade and plastered many buildings in the area including the Kevisville church.

They had a family of three sons: Gunnar, Borge and Harry, all born in Denmark.

Gunnar married Jean Fraser of Markerville. They have three children Norman, Kenneth and Edna and farm north of Markerville.

Borge resides on his father's farm. He married Marion Walton of Pine Lake and they have three children: Lloyd, Stanley and Lois.

Harry married Frances Adams and they have three children: Garth, Janice and James. They live at Markerville.

Mads Nielsen passed away in 1967.

MARTINUS NIELSEN by Anna Nielsen

My father, Martinus Nielsen came from Denmark about 1886 to Minneapolis, Minn. where his first wife died, leaving a little son named Niels. Later he married Johanne Marie also a Nielsen, who became my mother. I was born in 1890. When I was three years old we left Minneapolis and moved to Wisconsin and later to Dakota. I was 8 years old when we got a piece of prairie land as a homestead. My father was a blacksmith, but his hobby was building. So here he built a nice house. Pearly Tromburg worked at our place for some time. His parents were now at Dickson, Alberta, so the young men, Niels and Pearly, wanted to go up there. Their wish was to get each a piece of land with a river between, and that was exactly what they got, by the Raven River Bridge. On the south side was my brothers, Pearly's quarter cornered this. The quarter belongs to John Nissen now. My father wished to be near Niels, so in

1907, a year later we moved up here. By now the homestead land was taken near the settlers, so he bought a half section for \$10.00 per acre, so that was twice we settled on virgin soil. A good house was also built here. This is where Paul Christensens live now. We lived there for 40 years (S.E. 33-35.)

On Sunday morning, Oct. 13th, 1907, my brother and I arrived at the school house No. 1452 at Dickson. We came from Innisfail with Frank Andersen, a livery man, with a team of horses and a democrat. We drove right through the Medicine River, there was no bridge.

I was secretary-treasurer of the Dickson School District for 14 years; at that time each district collected school taxes and financed their schools.

In 1945 my mother passed away. We sold our home in 1947, bought a quarter of an acre of land from Fred Pedersen, had a house built and went there to live, one half mile east of Dickson. My father was there only one year, before he passed away. My brother Niels married Margaret Westergaard, the second couple to be married in the Dickson church. Niels passed away June 10, 1965. They have lived mostly at Red Deer. He also liked to build and make over houses. My greatest interest has been church work.

R.P. NIELSEN AND FAMILY by Elna Christensen

Richard Nielsen moved to the Dickson area from Nebraska in March, 1910 with his children, Arnold, Henry, Mollie, Lucinda, Anna and Richard. For some years Mollie looked after the family as their mother had passed away a few years earlier. After Mollie married Grandad went back to the States and married Mary Pedersen, sister of Fred Pedersen. They farmed on the SE4-36-3-W5 where Gunnar Hansen now lives. The original house was standing until 2 years ago when Gunnar built a new one. The old house was built of logs and later covered with lumber.

Grandma Nielsen had taken out a homestead in 1906 or 1907, which later became the home of the Dahl family.

Grandfather rented to Richard, then sold and moved to California. They moved back to the Dickson area and lived on the farm where Max Lauritzen lives. He bought this farm from his son Henry who had moved to the Crooked Creek area. Grandad was a true Christian and I can always remember him saying the Lord's prayer in Danish. I learned all my Danish from my grandfather.

Henry was burned to death in a fire in the Kevisville area in 1930. He had 4 children - Edna, Vera, Betty and Verner. Arnold is living in the States, also Mollie. Lucinda lived at home until her passing in February 1942. Anna married Tom Dahl. Richard lived on the homestead and now is living in Red Deer. Grandma or Mary as she was known to many, was a great sewer. Whenever there was any sewing to be done, Grandma was there. She made more quilts than any one I ever knew. She passed away suddenly in May 1950. After Grandad passed

away in 1943 she built a small house in Dickson where she lived except for a few months that she spent with Mrs. F. Pedersen. Mary and Gina Bonna are now living in the house that used to be Grandmother's.

GEORGE NISSEN

In the early spring of 1928 the George Nissen family arrived in Dickson. They came from the southern part of Denmark that was under German rule until the time of World War I. As a result both the German language and the Danish language was used in the home, the children speaking German to their father and Danish to their mother. Therefore the children became fluent in both languages, but since Dickson at the time of their arrival was almost entirely a Danish settlement, the German has almost been forgotten by the younger members of the family.

Before the family left Denmark, it had already been arranged with the assistance of Chris Morck and Hans Hansen that they were to rent the Sam Finnsen farm located 3-1/2 miles south west of Dickson.

Mr. Nissen now in his 88 year continues: We were heartily welcomed by all, both the Danish speaking members of the community as well as those who used the English language. From the very first we felt very much at home wherever we went. The Danish Lutheran Church and congregation were very sacred to us.

Our farming enterprise aided by the help of good friends and neighbors began quite normally. Now by "normal" I mean we bought our horses, cows and equipment as well as machinery at farm auction sales. None of the horses cost more than \$60 a piece. I bought a mower for \$5 which I used for the next 25 years with very little repairs being necessary. As a rule I did my own building. We soon learned how to plow with 5 horses and drive a four horse team in front of a box wagon. In looking back I can see that we made quite a few mistakes.

The older children soon found jobs, Christine, Margarethe and Sofia, first for neighbors and later in Edmonton. John and Hans on farms in the district and in Standard near Calgary. Lydia, Helen and George went to school at Dickson and soon learned to master the language to a certain degree.

In 1930 the Dickson High School was started and Margarethe who from early youth had felt a call to go to Nigeria as a missionary teacher enrolled in Grade 9. She completed her high school education at Dickson and attended Calgary Normal School. After teaching for one year at Monitor she returned to Dickson to teach at the high school where Miss Gundesen was still principal. She continued in this capacity until she was able to go to Nigeria as a missionary about the year 1944, where she is still serving faithfully.

We bought our own land but continued to rent the Finnsen farm for eleven years in all. In 1938 we built a new house on our own land, near the junction of the Raven and Red Deer rivers and have resided there ever since.

In the meantime our other children had married. Christine and Helen married Homo and Gordon Christiansen. Sophie married Richard Pedersen, son of Fred Pedersen. Lydia married Harlan Petersen, son of John Petersen. George is married and lives on Vancouver Island. John and Hans married two sisters of Norwegian descent, Clara and Margaret Bonaa.

JENS NORRE

I, Jens Norre, was born in Jutland, Denmark on April 19, 1886. I moved to the U.S.A. in March 1909, arriving in Elkhorn, Iowa, where I continued my trade as a blacksmith.

My wife, Jensine Marie, was born in Denmark on September 16, 1886. My wife and daughter, Anna came to Iowa in the spring of 1912, together with my brother Soren who later moved to Canada.

We lived in Iowa till the spring of 1918, when the gold of the wheat fields beckoned us on to Canada, and we arrived in Bassano, Alberta that year. However, the gold of the wheat turned to dust as the four years spent there were total crop failures, and furthermore the area where we lived lacked schools for the girls.

We moved to Dickson in December, 1921 where we still live.

We rented a farm, where Aage Jensen now lives, and we lived there until July, 1927, when we moved 2 miles east of Dickson, having previously bought 3/4 section of raw land. We lived here till the spring of 1946 when we sold the farm to Jens Hindbo.

We took a 6 month trip to Denmark and on our return we bought 40 acres of land from Pete Lauritsen, across from the Westergaard Bros. Here we built a new home where we are still residing.

We are members of Bethany Lutheran Church and up until I lost my vision a few years ago I was an avid fisherman and also enjoyed the fall big game hunts into the mountains with my fellow comrades.

We had three daughters:

Anna, born in Denmark was married to Evelyn Harold Petersen of Dickson in March, 1929. Her husband passed away in July 1961. They had 4 daughters, Louise, Eunice, Alice and Helen who now are all married, residing in different parts of Canada.

Selma was born in Elkhorn, Iowa, now resides in Dickson. She was married to Wilfred Westergaard in 1936. They have a son, Stanford who is married and living in Red Deer, and a daughter Noreen at home.

Irene, our youngest daughter, was born in Bassano, Alberta in October, 1921. She was married to Arnfeld Morck of Dickson in September 1944. They went to Colombia S. America in October of the same year, as missionaries of our church. Irene passed away in May, 1946 leaving an infant daughter Agnes, who this spring is graduating as a nurse from the University Hospital in Edmonton.

ALFRED OLSON

Alfred Olson came from Sweden to the United States in 1907. In 1912 he moved north to homestead at Webb, Saskatchewan. In 1921 he returned to Sweden and in July of that year married Alma Johan-

sson. They came back to the homestead in Saskatchewan, where their son John was born. They remained there for four years before returning to Sweden. In March 1929 they set out again for Canada, with the addition of a 3-month old daughter, Delia. In 1937, Alfred decided he'd had enough of the dried-up Russian thistles. He hired a truck to haul their horses to greener pastures, in Alberta. The horses were left in the care of Travis Rowles, while Alfred worked that summer and fall for Fred Hart. Hans Hansen cared for the horses over winter.

In the spring of 1938, Alfred and John worked in the Knee Hill Valley district. In July Mrs. Olson and Delia moved up, Mrs. Olson working near Elnora.

In November, 1938 the family moved into a log cabin owned by Thomas and Carrie Thomsen. In the spring of 1939, they bought the farm from Viggo Andersen. Mr. and Mrs. Olson resided on the farm until they retired to Dickson in 1960.

Mr. Olson passed away 1973.

FRED PEDERSEN, SR. by Richard Pedersen

The year was 1890 and my father was earning a meagre living by working on a small farm in Denmark, the land of his birth. Included in the work was the tethering out of milk cows to pasture, and when the flies were bad the cows stood neither numb, nor dumb, nor stared. He had also tried helping his father, a weaver, at home, but the work had no attraction for him, neither the income as it was small, due to factories having started in the industry. His three older half brothers had already emigrated to Nebraska, U.S.A., and so his thoughts went over the Atlantic Ocean to them helping him to decide to immigrate also to the same state in this same year.

Working with cattle was his job again, here they were more easily handled, when confined in a fattening yard. This farm where he first worked was close to Kennard, Nebraska, where he met his life-long friends: Anton Laursen and Martin Heinsen, Sr.; The last mentioned had a store in the town, and the former was a railway construction worker. Both came to Dickson, Alta., a few years after my parents had settled here.

Having learned some English he was able to earn higher wages working for one of his brothers, who was a coal dealer in Omaha, and when that business was slack, then in a tin can factory where he learned to solder. (This was a help to himself and the first settlers here in Dickson when their milk pails and cream separators leaked.) All the while he was trying to save what money he could and learn what music he could. The saving of money did not go at a very fast tune, but the music he learned enabled him to help with the choir at the Danish Church in Omaha, violin for choir work, auto harp when he sang solo. It was here amongst the young people of the church he met my mother who had also immigrated to Nebraska at the same age of 17 years, and in the same year.

They were married in November, 1900, and moved out to live on a little farm my father was renting near the city.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pedersen — 1915.

The arrangement was that as my father improved the farm, the value of the improvement was to go off the rent, but to his chagrin as the value of the improvements went up, so did the rent. Under these circumstances the news that good free homestead land was to be had in Canada, sounded very inviting to my parents, and others also of the Danish Church group, who were interested in owning their own land.

And so in the year 1903, the first from amongst this group of settlers set forth to claim their homesteads, which they had each picked out of a hat. My father homesteaded SW6-36-2-W5 where I still live. I will let my daughter Eleanor, tell of some of their experiences with her poem, "Dickson Days," best read at this point of time of which I am writing.

I was born 4 years after their arrival here, and have always appreciated that I grew up amongst these hardy, friendly pioneers, and their children and young people. I'm glad they located here in Dickson because of its scenery, climate, soil and other advantages, and so I have stayed around ever since.

I would like to mention that I went to Dana College, Blair, Nebraska one year while still in my teens; so had opportunity to see the city and state from which my parents immigrated, and to visit relatives and friends who still resided there. (Making a comparison I am just as satisfied to be farming here.) It was at Dana College I first met Dr. Nyholm and his wife to be: Ingrid Holm-Miller, and so was glad when he came up here to be our Pastor. During the winter I met Jens Dixen again, when he came to speak at the college chapel; I was already acquainted with him from his visits in Dickson during my childhood. He had already started a Folk High School in Kenmare, N.D., where he took the young men and women in during the winter, and in his own zealous way interested them in the Bible, Education and Missions. Young people that he didn't get to his school he would give a friendly pat on the shoulder, and say "Let me know if you ever need a friend."

Dixen had the same objectives in Dickson as he had in North Dakota, and so got Dr. Nyholm interested to come up, and serve as Pastor and teacher, and so the first high school, Sylvan Lake Bible Camp, and the Canadian Lutheran Bible School at Camrose were started while he was there.

It was in the spring of the year of 1928 when Mr. and Mrs. George Nissen with a family of four girls and three boys arrived in Dickson as new immigrants from Denmark. I found out that they had arrived, because on coming home from Olds School of Agriculture, I could not come into our house. Sophie, one of Nissen's girls had decided to quarantine our house with scarlet fever.

Later on the quarantine was lifted, and I found out I did not need to be afraid of her. And so, after many visits down to the old Sam Finnsen place a few years later, (where George Nissen started farming), we decided to get married in the year of 1933.

On a Sunday, in July, with my old friend and music teacher Thorvald Larsen as organist, Dr. Nyholm married us, blessed us, and assured us that, "Life would not be a bed of roses."

We have had joy and happiness from a few flowers at the least, three of them, Eleanor, married to Rev. Bent Damkar, Sonia, married to Mr. Larry Berg, school teacher.

The last is Fred, 18 years old, taking an apprenticeship course in welding.

My hope is that my family, as well as myself, will be as useful to our fellow man, as my father and mother were.

JOHN PETERSEN by Harlan Petersen

In 1906 John and Lavinia Petersen with their three children Gerhold, Vita and Ernie came to Dickson from Blair, Nebraska. They were attracted by the free homestead land that could be had at that time and they decided to come and join friends and relatives, the first who came in 1903. This was an entirely new way of life for them as John was a tailor and had no previous experience of pioneer life. They built their home one mile south of Dickson where they lived for several years. They took a homestead in the Kevisville district which was later sold. Three more children were added to the family, Evelyn, Marie and Harlan. In 1917 they bought land west of Dickson and there built their permanent home where they spent the remainder of their lives. John died in 1940 and Lavinia in 1948. It is through the life and work of the early pioneers who persevered through so many years of hardships that this district has become one of the most productive in Alberta.

BORGE RASMUSSEN

Borge Rasmussen came to Dickson from Denmark in 1956 and worked for Soren Jensen and others. He purchased SE2-36-3-5 in 1961 and NW1-36-3-5 later. He married Gerda Van Klaveren from Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1969. They have two children, Raymond and Janet. Borge has served on the church council and is a choir member. Gerda was choir director for awhile. They purchased Jens Schmidt's farm in 1973, where they are now residing.

MR. & MRS. NELS RAUN

Nels Raun was born in Denmark, February 16, 1877. He came to U.S.A. in 1892 with his parents, later moving to Oregon, where he was married to

Amalia Christina Petersen who was born at Belgrade, Minn. June 13, 1885.

They came to the Standard district in 1919 where they farmed until moving to Dickson in 1935. They bought the Jorgensen farm on the south side of the Raven River.

There are nine children: Mrs. Marie Wilde and Mrs. Clara Cornstack of Eugene, Oregon, Thyra Raun and Cecilia Raun, Beverton, Oregon, Emma Raun, Japan, Mrs. Ellen Howard, Alaska and Adolph Raun, Red Deer, Mrs. Lilly Appleberry and Harold Raun, Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Raun passed away December 7, 1954 at the age of 77 years and Mrs. Raun passed away July 7, 1967.

MARTINUS RUBAK

Martinus Rubak came to Wayne, Alberta in 1923, Karen Petersen in May 1924. They were married in Calgary 1925. They lived in Wayne 14 years, Martinus working in the coal mines. They have three children: Marie, Paul, Ethel all born in Wayne.

Karen and Martinus came to Dickson District in 1937 where they farmed until 1967, when they sold out and moved to Innisfail.

The three children are married, Marie to Peter Hazelbowner from Sask., Paul to June Varty from Innisfail. They live in Calgary. Ethel married Gordon Cross from Ponoka. They live in Fort Assiniboine, Alberta.

GEORGE C. SHAVER by Gerald Shaver

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Shaver and family of six children (Cecil, Gifford, Gerald, Margaret, Helen and Donald) came to Dickson from Cochrane, Alberta, in 1921 and lived here until 1927 when they moved to White Law, Alberta. While here they rented several places; the last one was Sam Finnsen's. Three of their sons, namely, Gifford, Gerald and Donald enlisted in the army, 1941, 1942, and 1944 respectively. Donald was killed in active service in 1944.

Mr. George Shaver died in 1963 and Mrs. Shaver died in 1966.

THE SLOANS

My teaching career began at Crooked Creek. Mr. J.R. Miller, a life insurance agent from Innisfail found this school for me. I had told him I would take a policy if I got a school. When I dismissed school the first day he was waiting at the gate. I still have this policy.

I boarded at Emil Brown's. Mrs. Brown told me about a farmer on the Raven who had two very nice daughters. One Sunday when I returned, this farmer, his wife and daughters were there, so Dora and I met for the first time. I soon decided that Mrs. Brown had been correct in her description. After teaching and batching for three years at Crammond, Dora and I were married.

Our first home was twelve by sixteen feet. One night we entertained fourteen teachers and the school inspector. It was very cozy.

Our first son, Robert, was born while we were at Raven. He received much attention from the school children. One little girl informed me that they could not agree on a name for him so they had put all the suggested names in a hat and drawn the name "Butch". The boy who had suggested this name was very disappointed when we choose another name.

After teaching Raven for four years, we moved our house to Red Raven and enlarged it. It still stands by the church.

In 1942 Robert, Dora and I moved to Dickson. I had no idea then that I would teach here for thirty years and then retire here. Louise was born soon after we came to Dickson.

At first we lived in the house now occupied by Miss Bernice Christiansen. We rented it for eight dollars a month. After our son, Barry, was born we purchased the house by the cemetery.

The first year at Dickson I taught Grades IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX. The next year Miss Gundesen and I taught Grades X, XI and XII. It has been interesting teaching the children of these former students.

I feel fortunate in being able to teach here. This has been an excellent place to raise a family. Nearly all the students were interested in learning which has made teaching easy and interesting.

I am now enjoying retirement. Teachers in Alberta are fortunate in being able to retire at an early age.

Robert now lives in Edmonton. He is a computer programmer for Alberta Government Telephones.

Louise is married to Mr. John Busby and lives in Red Deer.

Barry is a computer technician for International Business Machines in Edmonton.

THE WES SOLE FAMILY by Clarence Sole

The Wes Sole family lived in Chinook, then moved to Byemore, later moved to the Dickson area where I attended school for nine years, along with my oldest sister Margaret and younger sister Ruth.

I think the biggest tragedy while living in the Dickson area was the ground fires which the men of the district fought day and night for weeks on end. How these fires started I do not remember, but I do remember quite well how the men had to dig away the edges and throw it into the centre so it would not spread further. Acres and acres of rich soil was left nothing but ashes and was no good for farming for considerable number of years. As a matter of fact, some of the holes can still be seen in some of the swamp areas.

Now, for a bit of humor. I recall quite well the time that Arnfeld Morck, Per Lund and I were riding home from school in a two wheeled cart chewing "Stag" chewing tobacco. Due to the shaking up over the rough roads, I swallowed some. I was never so sick in my life. To this day I have not or do not chew tobacco.

We lived in the Dickson district for nine years on the Clarice McKean's farm which is one mile south and one mile west of the Dickson store. We then

moved to the Red Deer area where we farmed for several years.

In 1939 I enlisted for overseas and arrived in England on December 17th, serving through the Battle of Britain.

I was married in 1942 to Audrey Paish of West Wickham, Kent. Our two oldest children were born in England. I served in the Battle of Britain, the invasion of both Sicily and Italy, from there to France, Belgium and Holland, at which time I got leave to come home arriving in Red Deer on D-Day.

Father passed away in 1935 and Mother in 1964.

THOMAS C. SORENSEN — By Agatha Sorensen.

Thomas Christian Sorensen was born at Asaa, Denmark in 1892. His wife the former Agatha Hjarth was born in Ulvedal, Blenstrup, Denmark in 1897.

They were married in 1921 and came to America in 1928 on the liner "Minedosa", then on across Canada on the C.P.R. to Standard, Alberta.

In 1935 they moved to Dickson and rented land from the late Mrs. L.B. Christensen for a period of three years. The land was located one mile east of Dickson. There were 30 acres cleared and the family was to make a living on this, but over the three years 10 acres was to be made ready for cultivation according to the contract. In those days money was hard to come by, consequently land was cleared by axe, saw and horses. It took the help of the children every spare moment, along with mother's help, to clear the land and keep the home fires burning. As the family increased, more land was necessary so a half section of land was then rented from the late Carl Christiansen just 2 miles east of Dickson. In those days Dickson was home for our church, our school along with the hockey team and baseball team. Games were enjoyed by all young people as well as those not so young. Not to forget our general store and post office. It was truly a great day if we were allowed to go "shopping" in the general store. Horse and buggy was our transportation. We often walked from neighbor to neighbor to share our everyday pleasures. On clear Sunday mornings the church bells could be heard over a very quiet and serene countryside. This lives on in our memory even today.

Our family of seven children are all married and have established their own homes. Svend and Kent were born while we lived in Dickson. Svend spent 5 years with the R.C.A.F. Kent and family live in Seattle, Washington, as well as Lillian and Henning and their families. Helen and her husband and 2 boys are in Williams Lake, B.C. Helga married Paul Paulsen and live in Vancouver, B.C. Their family of four are grown. Ruth and her family of three children are in Lethbridge.

JACOB THOMSEN

Jacob Thomsen was born in Denmark in 1902 and came to Wayne, Alberta in 1928. In 1930 he married Marianne Nielsen, sister of Mads Nielsen. They bought land in the Spruce View area from the Soldier Settlement and moved here in the same year as the Mads Nielsens, 1934. Mrs. Thomsen passed away in

1939. Jacob sold the farm in 1963 to Mr. Stoyberg and moved to an acreage near Sylvan Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomsen had three children all born at Wayne. Annie (Mrs. Jim Bott) lives at Withrow, Alberta, and has six children. Ruth (Mrs. R. Wills) lives in Edmonton and has five children. Norma (Mrs. Merle Bejam) of Edmonton has four children.

THOMAS THOMSEN by Gladys Kappel

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Thomsen came to Dickson from Chicago, in the spring of 1905, with their family of four children. Caroline Christensen and Thomas Thomsen were born in Denmark and came to Chicago in the year 1894 and were married on February 28th, 1897. After living in Chicago for a few years, they decided the city was not a place in which to raise a family. As their friends, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Pedersen, had already come to Canada and were settled in Dickson, they felt they would like to join them. They bought a milk cow, packed their worldly possessions and left for Canada. They were met in Innisfail by friends and taken to Dickson by horse and buggy. There were no cars in those days! At that time there was no bridge over the river so they had to ford it, which proved to be a very frightening experience for them all.

Mr. & Mrs. Thomsen bought a homestead one mile west of the present Dickson store. There were many hardships during those first years. Logs had to be cut to build a house and barn and tar paper was used for the roof. Often a time was recalled when, during the night there was a very heavy rain, accompanied by hail the size of golf balls, which made holes in the tar paper roof. Tubs and basins were put on the beds and furniture to catch the water.

They lived in the Dickson district until their death. They were very active in community and church affairs. Mrs. Thomsen was the community's Mid-wife and delivered many babies during the years when a doctor had to travel by horse and buggy and the nearest available doctor lived in Innisfail — 25 miles from Dickson. They had seven children, Carl in Oakland, Calif., Elmer in Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Hans (Gladys) Kappel and Mrs. Esther St. Clair in Calgary. Mrs. Thomsen passed away in 1951 and Mr. Thomsen in 1955. They were pre-deceased by a daughter Ethel in 1923 and a son Harry in 1943. A daughter Ruth (Mrs. Soren Norre) who taught school in Dickson for several years, and also in neighboring districts, died in 1964. Her daughter Arla (Mrs. Oscar Morck) still resides in Dickson.

JOHN TROMBURG by Clara Christianson

John Tromburg and family moved from Kenmare N.D. to Dickson, Alberta, May 1st, 1905. At that time the children were Sophus 13, Merrill 11, Clara 9, Henry 8, Ella 3, and Ernest 1, our older brother, Perly 15, came to Alberta a year later. Two brothers were born on the homestead, Ray Rohe and Nels Christian. We attended the school in Dickson. My father was the first to haul cream from the settlement to the creamery in Markerville. At that time the

Medicine River had to be forded with the load of cream, the river at times was so high my father would tell how close he came to losing both his load and team. For many years later his son, Pearly, hauled cream.

My father was born in Denmark, came to the U.S. in 1880. His first wife died in N. Dak. After several years he married Christine Westergaard who was my step-mother. She also was born in Denmark, came to the U.S. in 1889. They were 42 and 25 years old when we moved to Alberta. We moved back to Wisconsin in Oct. 1909. Pearly remained in Alberta where he passed away Dec. 27, 1918. He had married Carrie Lundgren in Dec. 1909. They had three daughters, only one is living now. She is Mrs. Viola Daeffler of Waterloo, New York.

R. VEENSTRA

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Veenstra with children Ted, Vicky (Penner), Clarence, and Audrey (Ouellette) emigrated from Holland to Bluffton, Alberta in 1948, coming to Dickson in 1960. They own an acreage east of Dickson and live in the Fred Pedersen house.

FRED WEINRICH

Fred Weinrich came to Dickson in 1926. He was a mechanic and blacksmith.

He owned and operated the first garage in this area as well as the first school bus, bussing children from Kevisville to Dickson in 1942. He married Marie Petersen in 1934. They have two children Gerald and Gail. They have retired in White Rock B.C.

MADS WESTERGAARD by Jennie Thomsen

Mads Westergaard, born in Ringkoben, Denmark, in 1868, came to Racine, Wisconsin, at the age of 21 years. In 1893, he married Anne Tygesen Nielsen who came from Ugerlose, Sjaland, Denmark the year before. After spending some years in Racine, Wisconsin and Minnesota, he homesteaded in North Dakota. In 1910 he came to visit his parents, the late Mr. & Mrs. Nels Westergaard of Dickson. After seeing the beautiful country and surrounding scenery he wrote to his wife and told her he thought he had found Paradise and was going to file on a homestead, which he did, at Kevisville. He returned to North Dakota to make preparations to move his family and belongings to Canada and arrived in Dickson Sept. 10th, 1910 with his wife and family of eight. The family lived in a small one room log house with a loft serving for sleeping room for the children and a step ladder to climb up and down, it being removed when not in use. This land was located two miles west of Dickson, on the farm he had bought from Hans Peter Jorgensen. The ninth child, Edna, was born while living here. During this time a home was being built on the homestead.

In those days building was not a simple matter, as the logs had to be cut and sawed into lumber. The logs were cut on the homestead. In 1913 our new home was finally ready and we moved to the homestead. Elmer and Melvin were born here. The whole family loved the life on the homestead, the boys fished in the creek nearby, and with the school

being close by, Mrs. Westergaard could watch the children at play in the school yard. With money being scarce and clothes not too plentiful it didn't take too much bundling up to get there and back. The neighbors were wonderful.

Unfortunately, the land was not good, being mostly muskeg and sandhills, so Mr. Westergaard traded his homestead in the U.S.A. to Pastor Kildsey for NE25-35-3W5th, in Dickson where his sons Wilfred and Elmer still live. In 1917 Mr. Westergaard and family moved to Dickson. It was heartbreaking to leave dear friends in Kevisville, altho' the distance was not so great, our only transportation was by foot, or horse and buggy, and the roads were almost impossible at times, so we did not see them very often. Now the children had two miles to walk to school, and it was often difficult to clothe them warm enough in the winter. There were many hardships those first years, money being scarce, the older children of the family had to leave home to earn their living. Mr. Westergaard worked early and late to clear the land, the children went to school which often left Mrs. Westergaard to hunt cows, and milk them by herself. The cows wandered far, there being few fences in the country. The only fruit they ever had was wild berries which were plentiful. For meat they mostly had partridge and prairie chicken.

Mrs. Westergaard passed away June 23, 1943 after a long illness. Mr. Westergaard passed away January 28, 1949. Both are buried in the Dickson cemetery.

The eleven children are all living. Margaret Nielsen at Red Deer. Agnes Andersen at Olds. Nels and Einar at Fort St. John. Emma Wakey at Sylvan Lake. Jennie Thomsen, at Oakland, California. Lilly Forester at Innisfail, Wilfred and Elmer at Dickson. Edna Jensen in Calgary. Melvin at Edmonton.

ELMER WESTERGAARD

Elmer Westergaard married Val Larsen in 1942. They have three children: Garry, Keith and Randy. They farmed in partnership with Elmer's brother Wilfred until 1967 when Wilfred retired and Elmer purchased the "home" farm.



Chris M. Christiansen.



First Dickson church.



A group of young people arriving at the Dickson picnic.



Nels Linneberg and Ole Olson on mower.



HAPPY HILL

GENERAL HISTORY OF HAPPY HILL

The Happy Hill district is typical parkland, varying from sandy loam to blacksoil, originally covered with willow and poplars.

Around 1902-05 homesteaders came, many staying only long enough to get title which was given on payment of a \$10 dollar fee, building a shack and breaking 15 acres of land. Names as Bardall, Craig, Jones, Giselman, Hillman and Murdock remained to settle.

Cattle, horses and sheep were the mainstay of these early settlers. "Sloughs" provided an abundance of native hay. There was an unwritten law that anyone cutting around a slough with a mower claimed it for his own use. Haying equipment included mower, rake, wagon, rack and fork. Later, home made contrivances such as a "bucking pole" was used for garnering the hay. Then came the buck-rakes and "over-shot" hay stackers powered with horses.

Clearing of the land was done with axe and saw or trees pulled out by the roots with horses. When original tractors became obsolete the wheels were taken off and used to make "brushcutters" pulled with horses.



Mert Craig's homestead — 1913.

The earliest roads were merely trails cut through the brush. Culverts were made of tamarack and covered with soil by a metal "slip" or "Scraper". Where soil had to be hauled in, a "fresno" or wheel scraper was used. These were handled by horses but required an extra "snatch" for filling.

Around 1920 the first roads were graded using a blade grader. By this time the local improvement district had become the municipality of Golden West with W.N. Stringer as the first councillor. The grader required eight horses, two drivers and a grader man, usually Joe or John Hillman. Around 1940 an elevator grader drawn by a caterpillar tractor was purchased.

In 1943 John Hillman, the first councillor of the newly formed Red Deer municipal district, called a meeting at Happy Hill. It was here Chris Hjalmsen made this request, "I don't suppose we could get a spoonful of gravel on the Diamond Valley road?" Many farmers put money towards this project and

with the help of the municipality the first gravel road was seen.

The Happy Hill school district No. 1018 of the N.W.T. was established April 20, 1904. The school built on the S.W. corner of Sec. 25-37-3-5 was named by Fritz Giselman, who was the first senior Trustee and Treasurer. Other trustees were John Davidson and John P. Anderson. Arni Bardal was first assessor at a salary of \$8.00 per annum. In 1909, Jesse Craig was elected as assessor at \$10.00. The Sec. Treas. received \$25.00 and expenses, this later became \$50.00 and no expenses. In 1926, \$75.00 and included odd jobs.

The taxes were 5-1/2 cents per acre, 10% discount if paid within 30 days.

The teachers boarded with district families.

A telephone was installed in the school in 1918. A new school was built in 1949 by the Rocky Mtn. division with the help of volunteer labour. In 1959 the Happy Hill school closed. The site and building was purchased by the community and is now used as a Community Centre. Most of the social activities were held in the school including dances with local music. The Christmas concert and annual picnic are still carried on here. For several years Willian Sloan showed films.

Many student ministers of various denominations conducted services in the school. In 1927 Carl Grey drew large crowds each Sunday. Music was supplied by local boys who had received gratis, music lessons from Joe Hillman.

In the earliest days postal service was obtained at Markerville and later Evarts. In 1927 the first rural mail delivery came from Eckville. It served the west part of the district. Joe Hillman, using horses and buggy or sleigh, was the first mail courier.

In 1949 Calgary Power was brought into the district.

In the '20's and '30's basket ball, boxing and wrestling were commonly enjoyed by all residents of the area.

HAPPY HILL LADIES CLUB

The Happy Hill Ladies Club came into being on June 15, 1927 when the ladies of Happy Hill gathered at the home of Mrs. Jim Leithead. Mr. Grey, the local minister, who also attended, moved that an

'Aid' be organized for the purpose of supporting the church in as many departments as possible, promoting community spirit and helping the needy. The first officers were: President - Mrs. Jim Leithead, Vice-Pres. - Mrs. Ben Reighley, Sec. - Alberta Reighley, Treas. - Mrs. Bill Jarvis. Other ladies who joined were Mrs. Helgi Bardal, Mrs. Arni Bardal, Mrs. Dan Mount, Mrs. Bertha Key, Mrs. Hughie Swain, and Margaret Reighley. Other early members were Mrs. Pete Carlyle, Mrs. Bill Hansen, Mrs. Lula Budvarson, Mrs. Jack Murdoch and Freda Bardal.

The early trend for money making was bazaars, quilts and rugs raffled, ice cream socials and dances. They kept the club very much alive and active in spite of the adverse weather conditions, bad roads and the Depression. One of the early investments was a piano purchased by Ben Reighley, later paid by the club which was placed in the Happy Hill school, also a gas lantern for social purposes. In 1931 the Club was a W.I. for a short period but then decided to go back to the original club. Many needy families in the surrounding districts were helped by cash donations or boxes of groceries or clothing.

In 1937 a chicken supper, fish pond and dance was put on at Central Hall by the ladies. Admission to the supper was 35 cents for adults and 15 cents for children under 12. The proceeds from this supper went to furnish a ward at Eckville Hospital.

A Sunday school concert and home baking table was held at the school to raise funds for the Radio Sunday School Lessons. The club had sponsored the lessons for the children for several years.

In the 1940's the club was busy working and raising funds for the Red Cross, many quilts were made and much sewing and knitting done. They also sent parcels and cigarettes to local boys and girls in the service overseas. The ladies held successful bazaars and dances and also chicken suppers at the Central Hall to raise funds which were used in various charitable ways. The Happy Hill Ladies Club is a share holder in the Central Hall. It was the custom in those days for someone to hitch up a team and sleigh and pick up the ladies on the route to the meeting. On one occasion the sleigh hit the edge of a culvert and overturned, in the deep snow. In the confusion, Gwen lost her glasses and kept saying 'Where am I?' Christie said, "Move over, you're on top of me." So up comes Christie, bloody nose and all. You can imagine the comments when they arrived home soaking wet, hair straggling and stockings ripped. At one meeting the club decided to have Hobo Teas. One member picked up 3 other members and they had to go just as they were, to another members home for tea. Some of the sights were hilarious. The hostess then had to pick up three more the next time. A small charge was made for tea and in this way added to our funds. The Club has always been active in helping the Cancer Society, sending delegates to the Cancer Workshop in Calgary and canvassing for funds. In 1951 our Club, Evarts, Centreville and Marianne decided to present a fifty dollar Scholarship to the grade 9 pupil with the highest marks. 5 pupils from

Happy Hill have won this scholarship, Laura Wecker, Phyllis Erickson, Richard Brown, Bonnie Gowans and Terry Brown.

Life memberships were given to Mrs. B. Reighley, Mrs. J. Budvarson, Mrs. H. Bardal and Mrs. D. Mount.

June, 1967, the Happy Hill Ladies Club celebrated a re-union on their 40th anniversary, in the Community Centre. The Charter members were seated at a head table which was decorated with miniature coal-oil lamps. Forty years of minutes were condensed and read by the members.

In the late '60's the Club took over the Community Centre, the name was changed to the Ladies Community Club, then changed to the Community Club, which includes the men.

4-H IN HAPPY HILL

In 1950 a W.I. girls Sewing and Garden club was organized by Mrs. Kit Robinson, the Provincial Girls Club supervisor. The Craig Wild Rose W.I. was the "mother institute". It was a 4-H club which at that time was sponsored by the Dept. of Agriculture. The W.I. and Alberta Wheat Pool were co-sponsors.

The club was named the "Happy Hill and Craig Merry Makers". Miss Smith, the first home economist, decided this name was much too long and changed it to "Evarts".

We had a Junior club, 9-12 years which carried the W.I. programme. We sent four girls to club week each year - two for 4-H, and two for W.I.

At that time we were allowed a half day school time for meetings. The boys had a woodworking club under the leadership of Royal Raymond and Ingvar Erickson, and a successful ball club, coached by Royal Raymond, and later by Hal Craig.

The first leaders of the girls' club were Mrs. Royal Raymond, Mrs. Percy Buckle, Mrs. Reinhold Jobs, Mrs. Elmer Hillman and Mrs. Kay Watson.

In 1957 Laura Wecker and Sharon Raymond, won first and second in the sewing competition in Los Angeles, California.

The Club has been changed to "Evarts Clothing and Crafts" with Nellie Watson and Darline Burns as instructors.

In 1972 Marilyn McNeil through the 4-H inter-provincial exchange programme won a trip to Newfoundland.

A Happy Hill 4-H horse club was organized on Nov. 7, 1970. It includes members from Happy Hill and surrounding districts.

J.P. ANDERSON by C.H. Anderson

The J.P. Anderson family came originally from Minnesota. His family consisted of four girls, Bertha, Ester, Olga and Helgie, and three boys Arthur, Carl and Philip. There were two children born at Evarts, on the homestead, Agnes and Ted.

He came to the Shady Nook district in 1900 and stayed there four years before he went homesteading in Evarts. His homestead was NE36-37-3-W5. Mr. Anderson brought his wife and family to the homestead by horses and wagons during that winter.

There were about thirty acres cleared and broken on the homestead. The rest was cleared by hand and broken with 3 horses. Our first home was built in 1904. It was a log house built by Dad with the help of good neighbors. The neighbors were Fritz Giselman, Jerry Chapman (he lived in a sod house), Sven and Albin Lindgren (a couple of bachelors), the Jackson family, the Smith Bros. and over west a man by the name of Mr. Murdoch.

The biggest drawback was the fall frost. It was hard to ripen grain or grow potatoes. Another hazard was prairie and bush fires. If a big fire got out of control, it would blacken miles of country.

Most of the mothers spun their own wool and knit all the socks, mitts and sweaters for their families. They purchased cloth and made most of the other clothes.

Mr. Anderson's oldest son Arthur, filed and proved up on a homestead a few miles north of the home place.

The family left the district in 1910 and went back to the Shady Nook district. Bertha, Ester, Arthur, Helga and Phillip are dead. Olga Johanson lives in Burnt Lake, Carl and Ted in Shady Nook. Agnes teaches at Canadian Junior College, Lacombe. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

THE ASMUNDSON FAMILY

Halldor Asmundson, born in Iceland came to Alberta in 1902. In 1904 he married Kristin Thorvaldson of Iceland and took up a homestead NE28-37-3-5 where he farmed until moving to Red Deer. They moved to Calgary and were engaged in construction work and buying and selling houses.

They had two sons: Thorvaldur, Mgr. Bank of Commerce, passed away at age of 55 and had three children; Eggert Hotel Owner, passed away at age 43 and had three children. August Asmundson was born in Iceland 1870 and in 1900 came to Tindastoll. In 1903 he married Anna Johnson and moved to SW34-37-3. In 1904 he took up land close to his brother Halldor. In 1907 they moved to Red Deer and resided there until their deaths. They had two sons and a daughter; John had four children. He passed away in 1942. Anna married Harry Goodacre, had two children. She is a widow residing in Red Deer; Oscar, played professional hockey, had two daughters and passed away in Los Angeles, 1964.

August Asmundson was a very diligent worker, cement work being his greatest interest. After the age of 78 he had a lovely little house built from cement blocks which he made by hand with some help from his two grandsons, Harold and Eddie Asmundson. August passed away in 1954. Lauga passed away in 1968.

C.D. BALL

C.D. (Doug) Ball was born on a homestead near Blackfalds in 1900. His wife Helene (Van Hollen) was born in 1903 in Chicago coming to the Alhambra district at an early age. They bought NE30-37-2-5 from Mr. Shepherd in 1932. In 1936 they purchased

SE30-37-2-5 from Mr. Rex Ireland and later bought NE18-37 and NW17-37.

They had five children: Evart of Happy Hill, Vernon married Kay Allan who passed away in 1949. They had three children. Vernon then married Adelaide Fontaine and had three more children. He joined the Army in 1945 and now lives at Drayton Valley. Dorothy (Mrs. Jake Mueller) has five children and lives in Calgary. Ronald and wife Shirley (Westlin) farm at Breton and have four children. Rheanne (Mrs. R. Brace) has three children and lives at Grande Prairie.

Helene taught Sunday School and was a member of Happy Hill Ladies Club for forty years. They were interested in 4-H Clubs. Doug was assistant leader in the Foothills 4-H Horse Club for two years and is a director of the Benalto Agricultural Society. They sold to Lloyd and Norman Lester in 1972 and now reside in Bentley.

EVART BALL

Evart G.H. Ball joined the R.C.A.F. in 1943 and served three years. In 1946 he married Lorraine Erickson and purchased NE18-37-2-5 and NE17-37-2-5.

In 1890 Magnus Steinson had squatted on this land. In 1898 it was surveyed, then homesteaded by him. Steinson then sold in 1907. Goodman, Kenyon, Kennedy, and Jack and Doug Harkness each owned it for a time. Doug Harkness was a school teacher and later Minister of Agriculture and Minister of National Defence.

Mr. Bozek, a coal miner, came here in 1929 and stayed until 1943. Mr. and Mrs. Bozek had a family of nine children. Doug Ball owned these quarters for three years then sold to V.L.A.

Evart and Lorraine have three children. Connie in Calgary, married with one daughter. Doan married Phyllis Davis, has two sons. Ricky at home.

In 1957, SE19-37-2-5 was bought from Thora Shanks. 1958, NE19-37-2-5 from Ben Hunford and SW37-4-5 from Terry Linneberg in 1965. The farm is now called "Sanda Rosa Ranch".

BARDAL FAMILY

Benedict and Sezilia Bardal arrived in America from Iceland in 1873. They arrived at Tindastoll in 1888. The trip was made by train to Calgary, but from there by horses and oxen. They lived on their homestead for eleven years, then moved to their sons, Helgi, Julius and Paul who had each obtained a homestead in the Happy Hill district.

They raised horses and Shorthorn cattle. They specialized in riding and driving horses.

Benedict was always available to assist with community work. He was a very good carpenter. Sezilia was Sec.-Treas. for the Icelandic library "Idunn" for several years, and also for the Icelandic Ladies Aid "Vonin". She passed away at the age of 52 in 1903. Benedict passed away in 1910.

Durlief Bjornsdottir (Bjorns daughter), Sezilia's mother was born in Iceland in 1813. She accompanied her daughter and family from Iceland and

was a very efficient and helpful member of the Bardal family. She lived on the NW30-37-2-5, and passed away in 1902. Julius, their eldest son, homesteaded SE30-37-2-5. This was an ideal cattle farm, a rancher Jim Brown had been there earlier. Later he acquired NE and SE23-37.

Julius was a small man, but he had a jovial disposition and enjoyed the company of his friends and neighbors. He was always available when anyone needed help. He spent his retiring years with his brother Arni in Bearberry and Sundre. He passed away in 1953 in Calgary.

Paul homesteaded the NE Sec. 24-37-3-5. Paul was a quiet and serious person, very likeable. He was a steadfast member of the Good Templar Society in Markerville, as well as the Lodge "Woodmen of the World". Paul passed away suddenly at his home in Happy Hill on March 14, 1918. The land was sold to Mundi Stephenson of Markerville. In 1915 Paul's house burned. In 1901 he built the first frame house in the Happy Hill district; hand planed all the sidings and trimmings.



Julius Bardal — first homesteader in Happy Hill

Arni was born Jan. 29, 1885 in North Dakota. He homesteaded NW24-37-3-5 in 1903. He acquired a license for steam engineer. He was a lover of horses and took a great pride in keeping his driving pony in top shape and appearance.

In 1902 it rained all summer, making it impossible to put up hay, until after the 10th of Sept. storm, which was followed by an Indian summer. Some hay was put up after the sloughs froze over. It was fortunate the winter was fairly mild. By 1903 a lot of the land was being fenced, thus not so much open range, and the Bardals were forced to decrease their stock.

In 1904 Arni went on a river drive on Lobstick Creek, into the Horse Guard, Medicine and Red Deer to the town of Red Deer at \$2.00 per day - 14 hour days.

At the age of nineteen he was assessor for the Happy Hill school district, which was just being formed, for the sum of eight dollars per year. He was the youngest school board member. Walter Crockett, the first teacher at Happy Hill in 1905, batched with Arni.

In 1910 after working in Vancouver, he settled down to farming, and doing considerable custom work. Bob Ross from Innisfail was the engineer on their steam threshing outfit.



Paul Bardal home — first frame house in Happy Hill.

Arni sold his homestead in 1912. The next year he purchased a quarter in the New Hill district. In 1917 he married Stephania (Fanny) Stephenson, daughter of Stephen G. Stephenson. Arni and Fanny took an active part in Community affairs. He was chairman of the Board of directors when the New Hill Mutual telephone Co. was organized. He was also chairman of the directors of the Central Community Hall, and on the School board.

The winter of 1915, there was no snow until the 6th of Jan. A prairie fire broke out 5th Jan. luckily snow arrived next day. On the 24th of May 1923 we received 24 inches of snow in 24 hours, which took a large toll of calves and lambs.

The long winter of 1919-20, caused high priced feed, loss of stock, place half paid for, the severe drop in the price of all farm returns, with no drop in taxes or the amount owed on the land. Arni and Fanny considered all these things, and decided to sign off and moved in 1924, again to reside in the Happy Hill district with brother Julius.

They had declared never to go in debt for land again, so in 1931 they homesteaded in the Bearberry district, and lived up to the 'no land debt' obligation, but with a lot of hard hoeing in the thirties. He supplemented his farm income with carpentering and lumber mill work.

Mrs. Bardal passed away in 1940. Arni and their son Gestur remained in Bearberry for a time, then



A. B. Bardal with his \$400 outfit — 1916.

purchased a residence in Sundre. Julius lived there with them till his death. At age 80, Arni retired to the Autumn Glen Lodge where he resided until his passing in 1971.

Gestur married Jean Nelson of James River. They reside in Dawson Creek and have five children.

HELGI BARDAL by Freda Wecker

Helgi B. Bardal was born in 1879 in North Dakota, came with his parents to Alberta in 1888, and resided



Sawing wood — L. to R.: Joe Hillman, John Hunford, John Hillman, Helgi Bardal. Boy, Peter Hillman.

in the Tindastoll district until he was old enough to take up a homestead, along the Medicine River where Julius had already settled. The Icelanders liked to stay along the river so they could fish and have water for their livestock. He homesteaded SW30-37-2-W5th in 1899. They put up some log buildings and fenced some of the land to keep out cattle and horses that were on open range. There was enough land cleared and broke to fill the requirements of the homestead law, so Helgi worked out. They hayed sloughs and some of the high land. Helgi and Paul were the first to have a binder, a Massey Harris, 6 ft. They also bought a steam engine, a plow and thresher. They stack threshed till almost Christmas.



L. to R.: Mrs. Bergstrom, Joe Obinmeyer, Ben Hunford.

In 1911, Helgi married Laura Hunford who was born in Fargo, North Dakota in 1887. She came to the Hola district with her parents in 1889 to homestead the SW30-37-2-W5th. On Jan. 10, 1912 I, Freda, was born and my father died in March 1912. Mother continued to farm with her brother Ben's help and the help of the rest of her family. There was no widow's pension, or baby bonus. You just got along the best you could. When the men worked on the road to pay the taxes it was a must for my mother to take lunch to them.

In 1918 Mother and Ben bought NE19-37-2-W5th from C.P.R. They broke about 40 acres and in 1958 Ben sold it to Evart Ball. Ben worked as a farm laborer and in saw mills in winter. In 1920 we got the phone. We were on the end of the line and took many a message to people further on. Mother never said no.

In the early 20's Kennedy and Kenyon bought the first radio. I can remember going to listen to it. You had to put on ear phones to listen. It would squeak and squeal, but you could hear music and news.

Ben and Begga, my uncle and aunt, would drive nine or ten miles with horses to dances. One time my two aunts and I went to New Hill to a concert. We tied our horse in Ostergren's shed. When we went to go home the horse was gone. All we could do was walk the nine miles home, as every one else had gone.

In 1931 there was very little snow and we had a lot of skating on the sloughs. We had sleighing parties on the big hill on SE30. The first toboggan on the hill was made by Barney Eymondson. In the early 30's we rented the NW30-37-2-W5th and in 1937 my mother and I bought this land. It was homesteaded by William Schultz in 1903. He sold it to Fritz Giselman who traded it to Wm. Howe Music Co. Calgary for a player piano which is still at Condor Hall.

JONAS BERGSTROM

Jonas Bergstrom came to the Happy Hill district in 1903 with his wife and family and took up a homestead on NW28-37-3. They lived there until their passing. Their son John took over the farm. He married Lydia Sawyer from Burnt Lake. They retired to Eckville in 1946, having sold the farm to W. Lemke. He is now deceased.

JOHN BERGSTROM

John came to the Happy Hill district with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bystrom, in 1902. He homesteaded NE34-37-35 and worked out.

PERCY BUCKLE

The O.M. Neilsen farm in Happy Hill District was purchased by Percy Buckle in the fall of 1949. Percy moved his wife Rene and their two children Judith and Bernard from Saskatoon, Sask. and they lived here for 2 years.

They rented the Munson farm and lived there until 1958. During this time, Percy was on the school board as chairman for several years. Renie was active in the 4-H Club and Happy Hill ladies club. They also were members of the Benalto Square Dance Club.

In March 1958 they held an auction sale and sold their farm to Ralph Jarvis. They moved to Red Deer where they both were employed at the Deerhome Inst.

Judy worked as a secretary in Bermuda, Calgary and Toronto, and is presently employed by the Holiday Inn in the Bahamas.

Bernie obtained his Degree in Economics from the U. of A. in Calgary. Percy died of a heart attack in 1964. Renie is still living in Red Deer.

SWAN BYSTROM

Swan and Caroline Bystrom came from Sweden to the Happy Hill district in 1902 to homestead NW34-37-3 which is now the Angus McNeil place. They built a log house which is still standing. They had 9 children. Bernard - 1904, Leonard - 1906, Evelyn - 1909, Lily - 1911, were born here. Swan Bystrom was a freighter, hauling supplies from Red Deer to the sawmill at Evergreen. He then hauled lumber back to Red Deer.

The family left Happy Hill in 1913 and moved to the Centreville district to farm. They had five more

children there; Oliver, Edward, Axel, Albert, and Elsie.

Bernard - married Delia Fitch and farmed in the Centreville district until his retirement and his youngest son took over the farm. Leonard - married Ida Smith and farmed in the Centreville district. Their son has taken over their farm. Evelyn - married Hilding Engman. Lily - married H.J. Cody, Sylvan Lake. Edward - married Catherine Wells and farmed in the Centreville district until his passing in 1967. Oliver - married Hilda Valli and farms in the Marianne District. Axel - married and farms in the Centreville District. Albert - is at Penticton, B.C. Elsie - (Mrs. Rudy Karr) lives at Penticton, B.C. Mrs. Bystrom died in 1939 after a lengthy illness. Mr. Bystrom died 1958.

BERNIE BYSTROM

Bernie is the son of Bernard and Delia Bystrom of Centerville. He married Ann Balfour, Sylvan Lake. In 1967 they moved to Happy Hill and bought the NE26-37-3, SW36-37-3, and NW25-37-3 from the Walter Maxson estate. They have four children - Douglas, John, Katharyn, and Karen. The family attend the Baptist Church at Benalto.

They are members of the Happy Hill Community Club and both have served on the executive. Both are members of the Benalto Agriculture Society. Bernie has been chairman of the Gymkhana Committee since 1968.

The water and flood stories of this place had us mighty scared, especially when you see the creek rise enough to cover the bridge with 3 feet or more of water. The creek is about 200 feet away from the house. In the spring of 1971 we took the motor out of the furnace and brought everything up from the basement as the water had only four more inches to rise and it would be coming in the basement windows. We were up all that night watching the water. The next day Elmer Nielsen and Charlie Scott came down the road and across the bridge in a motor boat to our driveway. We were marooned for four days.

DON CAMPBELL by Margaret Campbell

Don and I came to the Happy Hill District in March 1962. We bought Sec. 27-37-3-W5 from Steve Reighley. We adopted "Dixie" their collie dog, and she and our border collie Sport, became interested spectators of all the proceedings on the farm.

Don was born in Bowden but moved to the Little Red Deer District at an early age. Here he attended school and later took up farming in that area.

My maiden name was "Coles" and like so many people with that surname I was born in Prince Edward Island. When I was six my family moved to Saskatchewan. I attended the Regina Normal School, and began my teaching career in Knee Hill Valley, Alberta.

Don and I married in 1950 and we lived in the Little Red Deer District until the fall of 1961. We spent the winter in Calgary and came to Happy Hill in the spring.

Here we spent four very happy years. We had wonderful neighbors who were always ready to help in time of need. Don enjoyed his curling at Benalto and I had many enjoyable afternoons at the Happy Hill Ladies Club and the Craig W.I.

MR. AND MRS. PETER CARLYLE

Pete was born in Oregon, U.S.A. on February 26th, 1894. With his family he arrived in Canada in 1909 to the Gaetz district. For a very short time the family lived on the land now owned by Pete's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Shantz. They made their permanent home on the NE25-37-4-5. This is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Carlyle.

Pete operated a wood-sawing outfit and a grain crusher throughout the district, and also homesteaded the SW24-37-4-5. This quarter is now owned by Ken Smith.

Ella arrived in Canada in 1903 from Kootney, Idaho. She homesteaded with her family, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wylie, about two miles west of Benalto.

Ella, the oldest of eleven children, received her education at the Melita school which was located just north of Benalto. One of her teachers was Miss MacGregor who later became Mrs. Oswald Forhan of Eckville.

Ella helped with the gardening and the produce was sold to the railroad camps when the C.P.R. and C.N.R. were being built. She also helped her father break oxen. Many times she drove a horse and an ox to Evarts to deliver milk to the cheese factory.

What later turned out to be a happy event for Pete and Ella, started one day when her father sent her to Evarts to find the fellow that sawed wood and crushed grain, and arrange with him to come and do some work for the Wylies. Ella, being a shy quiet girl, wasn't too pleased to have to approach this young wood jack who certainly had quite a twinkle in his eye. So Mr. Robinson, a very kind man at Evarts, came to Ella's rescue and made the arrangements required to have the wood sawyer, who turned out to be Pete Carlyle, go to the Wylie home and saw wood.

In the meantime, Ella had gone to work in Red Deer for the Grouse family who ran a hotel there. She then returned to the Evarts district to work for the Dick Tennants for three and one-half years. Mrs. Tennant taught Ella to sew, and this was put to good use as she made clothing for her brothers and sisters at home. Ella returned to Red Deer to work for the C.P.R. trainmaster's wife, and then at the Windsor Hotel as a cleaning lady.

During this time, Pete had persuaded Ella to say yes, so she returned home to make her wedding plans. Pete and Ella were married on February 17, 1916. They had set an earlier date in December to be married, but had to postpone the wedding as Pete's suit got lost in the mail between Benalto and Evarts. They awaited its arrival, but with no success, so they decided to borrow David Lightbown's suit and get on with the marriage. This may have been the invention of the now popular "Hipsters" as the trousers Pete borrowed were too short and he had to wear them as low as his hips would allow and the suit jacket would



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Carlyle.

cover. His own suit was recovered out of a snowdrift west of Evarts when the spring thaw came. They went from home to Benalto with horse and buggy and caught the train to Red Deer where they were married. Ella's sister, Vode, and the late Max Lightbown were married at the same time.

Pete and Ella returned to the Gaetz district. They had twenty-five cents to start out their married life. Pete went out sawing wood and crushing grain, and Ella stayed home and looked after a dozen hens which were a wedding present.

They moved to Nanton and worked for a farmer. Ella worked in the cook house for a threshing crew in the fall, while Pete helped with the threshing.

They moved back to the Happy Hill district to where Harvey Carlyle now lives. Pete farmed and continued to work out. By this time they had two children, Jim and Jenny-May.

From here they moved to the Dailey section (20-37-3-5) which they rented for twenty-six years. This section now belongs to Hal Craig of Ripon Wisc. They had two more children, Ted and Harry.

Pete served for many years on the Happy Hill school board and Ella belonged to the Ladies Club. She reminisces of one time she took the team of horses out to the field for Pete, and Pete in turn drove their Model T car over to Ben Reighleys for Mrs. Reighley to drive and pick up Ella from the field, so the ladies could pick raspberries. With buckets filled, the ladies returned home. Ella was going to pick up the horses from the field and let Pete take the car home. Pete was at the other end of the field so Mr. and Mrs. Reighley turned the car around, headed it for home and convinced Ella it would be very easy for her to drive it home. When she arrived at the corner, a half mile from home, she started blowing the horn, to warn the children to get out of the way. Kids scattered as she came to a rolling stop in front of the garage. She quickly removed hands and feet from the steering wheel and gas pedal and prayed this rig

would stop. It did. This was her first, and she claims her last, experience at driving.

When Pete and Ella retired, they built a home two miles east (NE22-37-3-5) of the land they had rented for so many years.

Pete and Ella enjoyed many good fishing trips with family and friends out in the west country and once in a while would venture to Whitehorse, Y.T. to visit their three sons and their families who live there. Jenny-May is Mrs. Clayton Shantz and lives in the Gaetz district.

Pete passed away in 1970. Ella is very active and tends to her garden and yard each year. Long winter days she spends making rugs and embroidering. Summertime, she enjoys fishing and anytime at all she really enjoys a good "battle" over the cribbage board.

THE COUNNIC FAMILY by Louise M. Feys

Mother was born in Germany July 30, 1874. The family was orphaned while very young. So with two younger brothers she came to America to join the older brothers and sisters. Dad was born in Michigan and moved to Rapid City while still a young lad.

They were married in Rapid City, South Dakota June 25, 1900. They farmed for ten years before mother's sister was able to persuade them to come to sunny Alberta. She never mentioned the snow and cold winters. Employment was hard to find and wages small for a man, \$25.00 per month. With four kids, Roy, Rudy, Louise and Lydia, dad found it pretty slim pickings. But he was a good blacksmith and butcher so we managed just fine. Dad butchered in Stettler for 4 years. In 1915 our sister Gladys was born. In 1922 we moved to NE22-37-3-W5th, taking up residence in the Happy Hill district. It was a very cold move with bob sleighs, in Feb. We lived here until 1926, then moved to Rocky Mountain House. Mother passed away in 1943. That same year Rudy passed away following a tonsilectomy. Roy lives at Barrhead. Lydia lives at Ricinus, Gladys at Creston, B.C. Rudy pitched ball for Benalto for nine years. They were a good team and won many games.

THE CRAIG HISTORY

Young Jesse Craig was working in Chicago for the Illinois Central Railroad Auditing office in late 1902. Of farm stock from Ripon, Wisconsin, the city bothered him and being an adventurer at heart, he was eager to look into a circular he obtained from a Canadian Agent. Mert, his younger brother, also had wandering feet and was easily induced into going to Central Alberta to give it the once over; especially when a Scot could travel free on C.P.R. after entering Canada.

They left Wisconsin late in March 1903 — destination Red Deer, Alberta. The Wilkinsons (also from Ripon) had a farm on the Burnt Lake trail and this was where the Craig brothers landed. They hooked a couple of cayuses to a lumber wagon and drove to the Fritz Giselman homestead at Evarts to have Fritz show them a couple of homestead quarters. They proved up on two quarters. They had \$650.00 working capital and a mass of bushland.

Wild birds and rabbits were welcome on many of their dinner tables.

They rode an immigrant car from Portal to Calgary. The engine could hardly handle the load and it was so slow one fellow ran ahead for exercise. Another fellow shot a couple of ducks in Saskatchewan and was able to catch the back of the train.

The Craig 7' x 9' tent proved to be a 7' x 7'. This was to house and protect their earthly belongings. After selecting a place for the tent, Jesse decided to burn the dry grass much against Mert's wishes. Jesse said he'd never seen a fire he couldn't control. Mert said, "If you light that, you'll see one." And sure enough much of the valley between there and Evarts was burned.

They erected a log shack, bought a horse from Bardals, acquired harness, wagon, two chickens and two turkeys.

In June, Jesse had to go to Red Deer to get windows, doors and lumber for the shack. Mother turkey laid a nestful of eggs alongside a poplar and was setting. Jesse ordered Mert to take care of that precious turkey. A late snowstorm came. When Jesse returned two days later he asked Mert if he'd covered the turkey. Mert said, "She's covered alright." She was covered by snow, but faithfully sat and hatched every egg.

That fall Jesse returned to Wisconsin to acquire a loan from his father; so he loaded an immigrant car with supplies plus a sturdy team of horses. He received a dairy cow and brood sow from his father, seven head of livestock and machinery. On the obviously slow trip, Jesse got acquainted with the two Armstrong brothers, Bob and Bill, who homesteaded north of Benalto. Along about 1909, Jesse married their sister, Grace and moved her into the new home which replaced the shack.

He unloaded in Innisfail and headed west. At the Medicine River crossing — the Spurgeon Ford — he tipped the sleigh spilling out cow and brood sow. How he managed to get the sleigh right and loaded again is a mystery, but he did. He finally reached the homestead and lonesome Mert.

Mert, licensed to run stationary steam engines, was hired by Jam and McKenzie and wound up cook. The money kept the homestead going.

Jesse got himself quite a band of horses which he improved using purebred sires. He later was to trade horses to Stewart Bros. of Penhold for machinery and a Hart Parr tractor. Jesse had a beautiful purebred stallion, Cobby, and lots of fine colts were scattered over the country. Crossed with Cayuse mares, the offspring were very hardy and intelligent.

Cobby was quick and extremely intelligent. He refused to be a workhorse, saddle horse or buggy horse. He had to be traded off for three Percheron Mares. Hal Craig, Jesse's youngest brother, helped him bring the mares from Calgary with much excitement as Jesse was delayed for inspection in Calgary so Hal waited in Innisfail. His frisky horse threw him as he tried to mount which was very embarrassing to him.



Christmas Day about 1905 — L. to R.: Mert Craig, who cooked the dinner; John Armstrong, Alex Stelter, Gaylord Armstrong, Jesse Craig, Jack Dodd.

Evarts was the first post office in the region. It was a flourishing village in 1911 — it even had a saloon.

In 1910 a baby boy was born to the Craigs, named John Robert after the two Armstrong boys. Uncle Hal came to Alberta in 1911 for his first visit buying land at \$5.00 an acre. He sold it to Jesse and bought land at Big Bend. Much trading of land took place. Jesse enjoyed bartering horses, land or what have you. Mert and Hal eventually owned the quarter of land farmed by Carl Lemke, in 1931, and it's now farmed by his son Helmut Lemke.

Hal went back to the United States and took a job as a surveyor for the government, keeping land interests. Mert proved up on his homestead and left for Ripon. Jesse's son Hal, was born in 1917 and that completed the Alberta Craig nest.

Jesse contributed much to community efforts always taking an interest. In 1921, he toyed with the idea of selling out and moving to British Columbia, trading a half section North of Markerville to Mr. J. Kessel for a 20 acre farm west of Armstrong. The family rebelled, so he sold it.

Up until 1927 Jesse had a large number of horses — 100 running the range. The herd law ended that. He traded the horses for a 1927 Star Car and plow and tractor.

In 1930, the barn that still stands was built and the house remodeled by Hillman brothers and Arni Bardal.

Johnny married Neva Crawford from Diamond Valley and Hal married Patricia Savage from Raven. The senior Craigs retired in 1943, moving to Sylvan Lake for their sunset years. Mr. Craig passed away in 1959 and Mrs. Craig in 1962.

HAL CRAIG FAMILY by Patricia Craig

Hal Craig was born in the upstairs room of the old Craig house and Patricia Savage, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Savage of Raven, was born in Innisfail. Pat attended Normal School in Calgary, then taught school at New Hill No. 2, known as Victory.

They met when Pat was only fifteen years of age, and after the usual ups and downs of courtship, were married in 1943. (the year of tire rationing). They took over the family farm and the senior Craigs retired to Sylvan Lake. The first years of farming were hectic — involving much hard work with many cattle, horses and the land. The old threshing machine was used until the advent of the combine in

1948. The work load was eased with the selling of the horses, cattle and some of the land.

To the Craig nest was added Wayne, Beverley and Glen. The Craigs thought the nest was filled, but a surprise package came along in August, 1955 - Elbert Hal.

In 1949 the old original farm-house was remodeled; so although the structure looks different and has been added to - the house built by Jesse Craig in 1909 - is still there.

The children grew up to be healthy young people, although Beverley had allergies, and at the age of three was bothered with asthma. Hal and Pat decided to try Arizona for a winter to see if Bev could get relief. They bought a trailer, and at Christmas 1957, with their young brood feeling brave, but also a little frightened started for Arizona. The climate was delightful and Beverley was free of Asthma for the whole three months. She was much healthier that summer so they decided to try one more winter in the sunny south. Another beautiful winter was spent and a yen for Arizona was in the Craig blood.

Farming was enjoyable and it was wonderful to raise the children in the country but itchy feet got the best of the Craigs, so they got a visa and headed for Arizona in 1962. The following spring Pat became ill, so they were forced to give up their visas and return to the peace and quiet of the country.

In 1966 they bought a home in Tempe, Arizona, leaving the two older children in Alberta. Bev worked in Red Deer and Wayne remained at the farm. It was rather like trying to transplant an old tree from black soil to the soil of the desert, but at the end of the year, they were well adjusted to their new environment.

Beverley married Barry Budvarson and they moved to Calgary, where Barry works with sheet metal. Wayne married Linda Vion and he also moved to Calgary to try his hand at the sheet metal trade. Glen returned to Canada, in 1968. He also moved to Calgary, to work at sheet metal.

In June Hal, Pat and Bert returned to the farm for the last time. They sold the two homestead quarters to Ronald Ramsay and have retained the other three quarters which they are renting.

JOHN CRAIG by Neva Craig

John Craig, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse M. Craig of the Happy Hill district, grew up on the family farm and learned to take responsibility early in life. He took a real interest in the operation of the farm and helped to clear and break a number of acres of land.

In 1935 he bought a quarter section of land in Diamond Valley, NE9-38-3. He married Neva Crawford and this farm has been their home. A new house was built in 1937. Looking back it's actual cost was very small, comparing prices with the high cost of materials today.

To this union were born: Maureen, Murray and Brian. Maureen, (Mrs. Melvin Dyck) is a nursing Aide and lives at Penhold. Murray married Darlene Gherke, and they live at Carstairs. Murray is em-

ployed with a trucking firm in Calgary. Brian is at home.

John's main interest in farming has always been livestock. He became a promoter of Charolais cattle and enjoys caring for a small herd on the family farm.

TOM FLOOD

Tom Flood was a returned man who lived on NE36-37-3-W5th.

FRITZ GISELMAN

Fritz Giselman was born Dec. 11, 1860 in Bavaria, Germany. At the age of 18 he decided to come to America on his own. The fact that he could not speak English did not discourage him. Somehow he managed to get to Liverpool, England and from there came by boat to New York. He went to Chicago where he learned the butcher trade at Swift and Company. After becoming a qualified meat cutter and sausage maker he held the position of post butcher at Fort Buford, North Dakota.

At Fort Buford, Fritz met Elizabeth Gynther. She was born Sept. 2nd, 1862 at Helsinki, Finland, only daughter of Swiss Andrew Gynther and Finnish Maria Kahara. She immigrated to America in July 1892, leaving Prague by train and crossing the North Sea to England. She left Liverpool for New York on the steamship Edraria on the German Line ticket. It had eight hundred passengers and a three hundred man crew. The crossing took seven days and her ticket cost 265 mark. She was very interested in history, and languages came easily to her. She could speak several.

When she met Fritz Giselman she was cook for an army officer's family at Fort Buford, N.D. They were married July 3rd, 1895 in Wilston, North Dakota. To this union five children were born.

Louis, 1896 at Minot, N.D., served overseas in the Armed Forces during the First World War. He died in Nov. 1940 at Fort McLeod, Alberta of meningitis and is buried at Sylvan Lake.

Joseph resides at Portland, Oregon. He married Annie Swartz of the New Hill District. They have 3 children, Harry and twins Norman and Helen, two grandsons and two great grandsons. Bill has a hardwood flooring business in Portland.

Bertha resides in Corvallis, Oregon. Bertha is married to Alex Smith and has a son, Roger and daughter, Maxine, four grandsons and three granddaughters.

Laura born at Evarts Alberta resides at Sidney, B.C. Laura was married to Allan Barnes who passed away in 1966.

Edward resides on the farm in the Happy Hill district. He received his schooling at Happy Hill and farmed the family farm with his mother since 1918, later buying one more quarter. In 1938 he was united in marriage to Verna Krogh of Stauffer.

Following Fritz and Elizabeth's marriage they farmed for a time near Minot, N. Dakota. Around 1900, when the C.P.R. was encouraging settlers to come to Canada, Fritz was inspired to pioneer the new country. In 1901 he made the change, taking livestock and



Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Giselman, Louis, William, Bertha — 1901.

household goods. Many of the livestock did not survive the change in climate and many horses died of Swamp Fever. Fritz preceded the family to Canada and at first located land west of Ponoka along the Battle River. When he went to Red Deer to file, he ran into a man who filed on a homestead about 30 miles west of Red Deer and started a cabin on it but then decided to cancel it and go back to the States. Fritz decided to file on it, after swimming the Medicine River on horseback to inspect it. He later bought 3 other quarters.

There was an Icelandic settlement there before Giselman came. The Bardal brothers were the closest neighbors, one half mile south. Julius Bardal announced in the Icelandic settlement, "a big Dutchman moved in across the creek that you couldn't pull out with a four horse team." The buildings where they first lived, were on the creek bank on SE36-37-3. Neighbors helped to build a bridge on the creek near the buildings and this bridge served as a crossing for traffic coming from the south and west.

There was no regular church service. Occasionally various denominations would hold services at the Happy Hill School and everyone would try to attend. Early recreation consisted of box socials, pie socials and dances held at the school. Two annual picnics were the highlight of the year; May 24 at Evarts and the Icelandic picnic at Markerville. Fritz Giselman served as veterinarian for miles around, often travelling so far he had to stay overnight.

Fritz gave the use of his land to the Happy Hill School when it came into being in 1904. He was on the school board for some years as was his son Ed. The first teachers were Walter Crockett, then Mrs. Disher, followed by Miss Greenwood and Mrs. Ramsdell. First pupils were Giselms, Youngs, Thatchers, Crawfords, Reighleys and Andersons. Some of the early settlers were Luther Evarts, Lou Olson and the Jacksons, who had two sons drown in the Medicine River near Evarts.

In 1906 a man who was wanted for murder escaped from the mounties a few miles west of here and the trail through the Giselman place was kept busy with mounted police looking for him. One night this very man came to their door asking for food. Some months later he was captured in Edmonton.

In 1913-14 when Giselms decided to build a new house, the lumber was brought down the Medicine River from the Eckville area by Arni Bardal, who now resides at Innisfail. It was then hauled by wagon from the river about a mile east of here. The house was built by Fred Erickson, whose son lives by Central Hall. This house burnt down Mar. 17, 1917. This house was built on the quarter south of the original farm buildings and this is where the farmstead is now. Ed and his mother lived in a small house till 1938 when Ed built his present house.

In the early days the nearest post office was at Tindastoll and later at Markerville. When Evarts post office was started they got their mail there. Fritz Giselman was one of the first to get a car. About 1915 he purchased a Russell car and later a 490 Chevrolet.



Mr. Fritz Giselman by the house that burned.

Amos Smith broke some of the land with a steam tractor. Some of the other land including the building site was broken by a walking plough and four oxen driven by William Stringer. The Giselms have always run a lot of cattle and especially in the early days when open range extended several miles to the north and west. In 1918 Fritz returned to the U.S. and ran a butcher shop in Albany Oregon. He passed away in 1932 at the age of 72 and is buried in the Corvallis Ore. cemetery. Mrs. Giselman passed away June 5, 1939 the day before Ed's first child was born. She was 77 and is buried at Sylvan Lake cemetery.

Ed and Verna Giselman have four daughters.

Carol married Wally Schlemmer. Wally was killed in an aircrash in 1969 in Los Angeles, Calif.

Myrna married Ted Black.

Jacqueline married Cai Jensen.

Thana married Lawrence Dufresne. There are four grandsons and three grand-daughters.

Ed Giselman was on the council of the Bethany Lutheran Church of which he and Verna were both members.

Ed Giselman passed away suddenly at his home on May 11, 1970 of a heart attack. He is buried at Sylvan Lake. Verna is living in Red Deer and her daughter and son-in-law, Jackie and Cai Jensen have taken over the home farm.

Carol Schlemmer married Jim Childers and they reside in Camarillo, Calif.

JAMES GOWANS FAMILY

The James Gowans family arrived on the north 1/2-36-37-3-W5th, from Lanarkshire, Scotland in 1926. They left their homeland with a sum of \$150.00. The family consisted of 10 children.

Jim Stewart, Evarts, met us at Benalto and brought us to the farm. Mrs. Jim Leithead showed mother how to operate a stove and bake bread as Mother was used to cooking over an open fireplace. The neighbors often came over to listen to the Scotch records played on a hand cranked gramophone that we brought with us. The farm had only 60 acres broken. Each year some land was brushed by hand and broken up with horses. To get the settlers started the Soldier Settlement Board Supervisor would buy on behalf of the settler, used machinery and livestock, some good, some bad, anywhere within a radius of 40 miles. From there we had to pick it up with team and wagon.

The family consists of: Flora (Mrs. Alex Williams) in Guelph, Ont. Nellie, (Mrs. George Duncan) at Eckville with her family of eight children. Agnes, (Mrs. Lawson Haynes), in Calgary; Betty, (Mrs. Cory Rosvear), in Montreal with her three children: Jenny, died in 1972; Mary, (Mrs. R. Desrosiers) of Glaslyn, Sask., has 6 children. John, married and has three children. His wife died in 1972 and John resides in Edmonton; Jimmy married, lives at Hespero and has two children; William, at age 19 was killed in action over Calais, France in 1944. Jenny, Mary, John, Jim and William all served in the Armed Forces during World War II. William was killed in action and was buried in England.

ROBERT GOWANS

Robert, took over the farm from his folks who retired to Eckville where his mother still lives. His father died 1958. Robert married Phyllis Hanna and they have a family of seven children.

Bonnie, received her B.Sc. degree with Honors in Bio-Chemistry. She works in the McEachern Cancer research lab., Edmonton. Bill, is apprenticing for an electrician presently attending S.A.I.T. Brian, in Blue River, B.C. Ann in Red Deer. Colleen, Gordon and Alice are still at home.

MR. AND MRS. W.J. "BILL" HANSEN

Bill made his first appearance in the world on Oct. 7, 1892 at Logan, Utah.

The family moved from Logan to Milad, Idaho by way of a covered wagon as far as Portland, where they sold the covered wagon and finished the trip by boat. In 1900 they moved on to New Westminster

B.C. In 1910 they moved to Bellingham, Washington, minus Bill who stayed in Canada to work.

At the age of fifteen, Bill started fishing on the Fraser River and continued that job for two years. He also worked one summer on a halibut schooner. Then he worked in the lumber industry until 1915. Being in B.C. Bill was able to travel back and forth to visit with the family in Bellingham. Speaking of Bellingham, a certain Hallowe'en party Bill attended there, holds fond memories for him. It was there that Miss Ella Nielsen came into his life.

Ella was born on March 7, 1896 at Gordon, Nebraska. With her parents Ella immigrated to Canada in 1902. They arrived in Calgary riding in a train caboose. They moved to Olds and lived about two months in tents while their house was being built north of Olds. During this stay it was very wet and whooping cough and scarlet fever broke out. They took up residence in the Craig district on the Whitcomb place in 1914.

Bill arrived at Innisfail, rented a team of horses from the livery stable and headed west to the Whitcomb place where he gathered up Ella, returned to Innisfail and they were married by Rev. Shortt. They returned to Lindon, Washington and lived there for one year.

In 1917-18 Bill worked for the Warwicks and Bob Wilsons at Craig. They rented Arthur Holmgrens and lived there until 1919 when they bought land in the Happy Hill district from Judge Green. This land had been homesteaded by the Ploughmakers in 1904 (SE14-37-3-5). There they built their log house, assisted by Eric Engman who also helped clear the land.

Along with his farming operations Bill ran a saw mill. He served on the school board for twenty years and was on the Municipal Council for eight and a half years. Ella was a member of the Happy Hill Ladies Club. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen have four sons: Earl, who married Marion Pettit resides in Calgary; Herb, who married Joan Bergh resides in Markerville; Clifford married Eileen Rhodes and resides in Diamond Valley; Orville married Joan Kerek, and they live at Rocky Mtn. House.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Innisfail in 1965. They retired to Innisfail the same year when they sold their land to Lionel Tiedjen.

H.C. (CLIFFORD) HILLMAN

Clifford, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hillman was born at the Hillman home in the Evarts district in 1918.

He was the clown of the family, and would put on his own "one person fashion show" usually featuring an item selected from his mother's or sister's clothes closets. He also enjoyed music. A familiar sight to the rest of the family was Clifford and his mother dancing around the dining room table. He received his share of bumps as well. He was unconscious for several days following a fall from a horse.

Clifford purchased the N1/2-31-37-3-5 from Mrs. Donald Smith of Red Deer. Mrs. Smith was an early

settler who also owned the Island ranch to the north of Clifford's. Mr. and Mrs. George McGowans bought this place.

Clifford married Doreen Stauffer. Deenie was born at Alsask, Saskatchewan and came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stauffer, to the Evarts district in 1935.

Deenie was 4-H Club Leader for a few years. They are members of the Benalto Agricultural Society, and the Benalto Baptist Church.

They have three children, Greg, Beverley and Gary.

WALTER HOPKRAFT

Walter and Lena Hopkraft lived on NE24-37-3 and then homesteaded at Barrhead. They now reside at the Senior Citizen's Lodge at Barrhead. They are both enjoying good health, although he has been in a wheelchair for sometime. Mr. Hopkraft is 82 years and Mrs. Hopkraft is 78 years.

KARL JAKOWITZ

Karl was born in Estonia in 1874. After serving in the Russo-Japanese war he spent thirteen years in Russia, then returned to Estonia. His family presumed him dead and had divided the family estate leaving him out. So around 1910 he came to Medicine Hat where he worked digging ditches and attended night classes to learn English. In 1911 Karl homesteaded in the Orion, Manyberries district. His only equipment was a walking plow, a very small horse and a huge Clydesdale.

Karl married Ksenja Vivikka Tuomola, who was born in Finland. In 1911 she and her first husband, Frans, were planning their future on the little farm he owned. Three months later Frans died and since she was a childless widow everything went to his parents. Her father-in-law demanded even the price of the wedding ring. During the war Ksenja kept house for her stepfather and his two boys. They had hidden grain in covered containers in ant hills and since no one caught them doing this they were able to ward off hunger. She came to Canada in 1922. Karl and Ksenja had one child, Miriam.

Because of drought the Jakowitz family came to Eckville in 1925, then in 1929 bought SW13-37-3-W5 (C.P.R. quarter) in Happy Hill. Karl decided with thirty-two years to pay he couldn't lose. The task of building and clearing land was soon started by Karl and an occasional hired man. By 1932 a two-room house was ready and the family moved in.

Karl died in 1945. Ksenja and Miriam rented the farm out and moved to Eckville.

Miriam married Lorenz Zelt in 1953. Lorenz was born in Poland. He served in World War Two. His family lost their home and came to Canada to his uncle's farm in the Craig district and he remained to farm the Jakowitz farm. They have four children.

Ksenja died in 1967.

ARTHUR W. JARVIS SR.

Having farmed for a number of years near Norton, Kansas in the United States, the Jarvis family moved north to Grassy Lake and Burdett in Southern

Alberta, later to the Marianne area and finally to the Happy Hill district, arriving in 1919. The Jarvis family included four girls and three boys. Bill and George, the two older boys were already married, Bill to Louise Johnson and George to Gerty Archibald. The other children were Viola, Lester, Sylvia, Nellie and Goldie.

The family resided in the district until 1923 when Bill took over the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis moved to Lacombe and on to Edmonton. By this time Viola had married Oscar Slocombe, Lester to Fay Kidwell, Sylvia to Alexander Morigeau, Goldie to Minor David and Nellie to Frank Robinson. The parents then moved to Long Beach California where they lived until their death. Mr. Jarvis usually came back to the farm each summer.

Bill Jarvis and family of five remained on the farm until 1930 when they left to take up farming at Barnwell. He is retired and living in Lethbridge now. George and his family of two sons, Earl and Cecil, lived on the farm for a number of years before leaving to go to a farm west of Red Deer. George was killed in a highway accident near Red Deer in 1939. Gerty lives in Edmonton. Cecil is battery operator with an oil company at Sundre. He and his family live there. Les and Fay Jarvis farmed in the district until '51, when they moved to Red Deer and last summer to their present home at Sylvan Lake.

Viola and Goldie are widows, Viola resides at Kelowna B.C., and Goldie is in Edmonton. Sylvia and Sandy Morigeau are at Haney B.C. Nellie and her daughter passed away years ago.

Part of the old house that was on the Jarvis farm is being used by Axel Hansen who purchased it, and lives in it on Highway 11 near the Eckville turnoff.

There were several families who have lived on the Jarvis farm besides the Jarvis'. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Bud Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Dowkes, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Monteith, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley O'Neil, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Kidwell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cermak and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Carlyle.

LESTER S. JARVIS

After farming for a few years at Lacombe and later near Red Deer, the Les Jarvis family took up residence in the Happy Hill district in April 1926, on the farm where Ralph Jarvis now lives SW26-37-3-W5. The family at that time consisted of two little girls, Bernice and Nellie. On New Year's day in '27, we lost our older daughter, Bernice. In May, that year, Bernard arrived to take her place.

We had quite a time making a living, paying for the farm and fixing up the old house, besides a new well had to be drilled. We did have a good size herd of Hereford cattle, and our milk cows, so we made out pretty well. Farming was hard work; much of the land had big trees on it. Les did a lot of the clearing by hand. We milked cows for a good many years to pay for our groceries. We can well remember milking the cows out in the barnyard in an electrical storm and the rain just simply pouring down. We'd be soaked to the skin by the time we were finished. We did have what we called a straw barn, made of poles to form

the building. Around the outside was another row of poles, and poles were also used on the roof. In the fall the threshing machine would be pulled up close to the barn and the straw blower would blow fresh straw onto the barn. It would be packed down in the walls to keep out the severe cold winters. These walls also served as hen nests in the spring and summer and many young chicks were hatched in them. Our chicken house at the time was a log shack with the cracks chinked.

Winters seemed to be generally very cold. We would get up several times through the night to fire up the heater and the kitchen range. Les used to load up a big hand drawn sleigh with pieces of firewood and pull the sleigh and all, right into the living room — so it would be handy. The sleigh would be empty by morning. Needless to say, there had to be a big woodpile in the fall.

Neighbors were a must and much help and friendliness was exchanged. Many mothers acted as 'Doctors' when it came to the "stork's" arrival. Les was one of the men in the area with a threshing outfit so besides our own crop, he'd do some of the neighbors. His threshing outfit consisted of teams of horses, racks, men to operate them, spike pitchers, field pitchers etc. A fall wasn't complete without at least one runaway with the horses.

We ladies were always very busy when the threshers were around, preparing food for the men, anywhere from 12 to 21 of them besides doing the chores and caring for the family. Days were long — horses fed and watered, and the men's breakfast over (that was a big meal, porridge, some kind of meat and eggs, fried potatoes, toast (the bread was all homemade) and coffee), and out in the field ready for the outfit to start rolling by 7 a.m. Often there would be morning and always afternoon lunch, dinner and work till 7 p.m. After supper, the men would sit around resting, relaxing, and talking. Often there would be someone musical in the group and a guitar and singing would liven up the evening, before the men would find their beds, sometimes in the barn loft or they'd spread their bed rolls on the floor in the house.

During the winter when the grain was to be hauled to market, Les would load up the sleigh box the evening before and leave shortly after chores in the morning. Sometimes he'd use four head of horses to make the trip to the elevator at Benalto some ten miles away. Many times the temperature would be thirty degrees below or lower, but he'd go just the same.

We had picnics in the summertime, also ball games, and the game of horse shoe was popular. At the picnics, parents who had ice cream freezers would make some, and that was sure a treat. In the winter there would be card parties, socials and dances. Music was often capably supplied by Mr. Neilson on his accordion. He'd play for hours, while old and young would dance at the school. Les took a social part in the community. He'd be the auctioneer at the socials, square dance caller, sing at gatherings, and "jig

dance" to the fiddle playing of Eddie Giselman. To go there, we would use the team and sleigh, the ladies and children would sit down on the bottom of the sleigh box with quilts and blankets over them.

Les was on the school board with Bill Hansen, Pete Carlyle and Alec Duncan. He was also one of the barbers of the district. I was a member of the Happy Hill ladies club.

Our family all took their schooling at Happy Hill. Nellie and Audrey both graduated in Home Economics at Olds School of Agriculture. Nellie married Kay Watson. They have three sons and farm in the Evarts district. Bernard married Thelma Palm, has four children and lives in Eckville. He runs a mobile feed unit. Audrey married Doug Kneale. They live at Prince George B.C. and he is an engineer with the Pacific Great Northern Railway. Ralph married Ernestine Duffy, has five children and resides on the family farm in the district. Art married JoAnne Reighley. They have two daughters and a son and live in Red Deer; Art operates a corral cleaning outfit.

We farmed in the Happy Hill district until 1947, when we purchased a house in Sylvan Lake and stayed there for about a year. We then moved back to the farm until '51 when we bought a home in Red Deer. We lived there until '69 then moved to Sylvan Lake, where we are now residing.

BERNARD JARVIS

Bernard farmed the family farm from 1951-56, before moving to Eckville where he operates a mobile feed grinding business. He married Thelma Palm and they have four children Rhyse, Rhonda, Rene and Lynn.

RALPH JARVIS

Ralph bought his father's farm SW26-37-3 in 1956, also the Buckle quarter SE26-37-3 and later the "Happy Hill Farm" S1/2-24-37-3. He married Ernestine Duffy and they have five children, Julia, Randy, Deborah, Brenda and Sandra.

JOHN JONES HISTORY

John and Anna Jones came to Alberta from Baltimore, Maryland with their three children Margaret, John and Joseph in the spring of 1903. Mr. Jones was employed as a tailor in Baltimore before coming to Alberta. They homesteaded in the Happy Hill district on NE37-3-W5. They later purchased SW18-37-2-W5. Only three or four families were settled in the area on their arrival and while their living quarters were being built they stayed with the Fritz Giselman family.

Mrs. Jones became a good gardener and raised every kind of vegetable and berries as well as a beautiful array of flowers. In the early years she sold vegetables to Dick Schouton who came around to buy garden produce which was delivered to the mines at Nordegg. They farmed in the Happy Hill district until their death, Mr. Jones in July 1942, Mrs. Jones in Nov. 1945. They are buried in Sylvan Lake cemetery. John Paul lived in California and died in 1950. Joseph farmed in the Craig district and passed away in 1941.

In 1926 Margaret Jones married Theodore Black of Altario, Alberta. They had a son, Theodore Jr. After repeated crop failure with drought, they moved to Happy Hill in 1936 and took over the Jones farm. Mrs. Black passed away in March 1960 and is buried in Red Deer Alto Reste Cemetery. Mr. Black remained on the home farm for two years. He returned to Bradford, Rhode Island where he married Mrs. Edith Dinwoodie. They are now retired and living at Bradford, Rhode Island U.S.A.

Theodore Black Jr. married Myrna Giselman. They have one daughter, Melanie, and now reside on the home farm in the Happy Hill district.

W. GLEN KELLY

Glen Kelly arrived from Louisiana, in 1920 and stayed with Tom Flood and the Jones' while a house was being built on the Zelt place. In 1924 he moved to Markerville and lived with James Hopkins, Sr. He passed away in 1946.

JOSEPH KEY by Mrs. Joe Key

My father, Gudmundur Bjornson, came from Iceland by steamship and homesteaded NE20-37-2-5 in 1901, with wife Helga and three children, Gudbjorg, Gudrun and Bjorn. Thoranna was born on the homestead in 1903.

Gudbjorg (Bertha) married Joseph Bernal Key in 1917. They rented the Eggiman place next to her father until they bought SE30-37-2-5, Julius Bardal's homestead, in 1921. (Jim Brown was the first settler, but did not prove up on the land) Sold to Rex Ireland in 1934 and moved to Fawcett. Doug Ball bought the land in 1936. We built a log house in 1921.

Our children were: Frances (Mrs. Roger Iampen) of Fawcett; Valois married to Henriette Karman, of Fawcett. Annie (Mrs. Harry Morrison) of Coombs, B.C. Peter of Westlock, Alberta married to Agnes Theissen and Worris married Margaret Sharkey of Coombs, B.C.

Pete served in the R.C.A.F. as a navigator. Mrs. Key was a member of the Lutheran Church at Markerville, the Ladies Aid (Vonin) and the Happy Hill Ladies Club.

May 10, 1919 a snow storm covered the fences. The following winter was very severe. Stock was lost, and men had to travel miles to dig greenfeed out of the snow to keep the animals alive. That spring the Medicine River overflowed its banks. In 1934 a meteor fell which lighted up the whole district.

Mr. Key died in Coombs B.C. 1945. Mrs. Key now resides at Westlock.

WILLIAM G. KIDWELL

In May, 1914, Mr. and Mrs. W. Kidwell and five children ranging in age from 5 to 14, left the State of Washington with their team of horses and covered wagon to make their way to Alberta. They travelled by way of the Crowsnest Pass, which was only a wagon trail, to the Pine Lake area and the Edwell district, arriving there a month later. They had all the household effects shipped.

They moved to the Happy Hill district in 1917, to the Ben Reighley farm. They farmed his place for a

year, then bought the Jim Reighley half section and moved there.

Volney and Emery, the two older sons, had to report to the American Council for service in the army. This meant lack of help, so Mr. Kidwell thought best to dispose of the farm, and did sell it and moved to Red Deer. Mr. Kidwell operated a livery stable and draying business until 1920, at which time they moved again to the Happy Hill district and purchased the farm now owned by Les Jarvis.

Some of the family remember well riding a horse to Evarts and fording the Medicine River, when it was in flood.

The family consisted of Volney, who married Ina Carson; Emery married Helen White, they have a son and daughter living in Vancouver. Vinace married Jack Monteith; they reside in Rimbey. They had four children. Virgil better known as 'Bud' is also in Rimbey. Fay married Les Jarvis, had five of a family and lives at Sylvan Lake. Dorothy married Jim Monteith, had one son and two daughters and lives at Bluffton. Kenneth married Carrie Johnston, and had one daughter. Kenneth was killed at an early age in a bush accident.

While spending the winter in Vancouver B.C. in '58, Mr. Kidwell passed away at the age of 90. Other members of the family who have passed on are; Mrs. Kidwell, Volney and Emery.

JAMES LEITHEAD

Mr. and Mrs. James Leithead, children of pioneer parents, moved to Happy Hill in 1925. James Leithead, born January 22nd, 1892 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leithead who came from Scotland the previous year, was the first white baby in the Horn Hill district, east of Penhold.

In 1913, he married Isabella Pye, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Pye, also of Horn Hill. She was born at St. John's, Newfoundland in 1892 and had moved with her parents to Horn Hill in August 1898. She attended school at Horn Hill and Hill End. They were members of the Methodist, and later, the United Church.

While farming at Horn Hill, their three children were born, Tom, Alfred and Margaret.

The Leitheads moved to the Happy Hill district in the spring of 1925 when they bought SW36-37-3-5 from Sam Day, also NW25-37-3-5.

Jim went out first and put up a shack, then the family moved out. They spent the summer breaking new land and putting up fences. They met some of their new neighbors, the Duncans and the Giselmans.

They returned to Horn Hill at the end of August, and moved back to Happy Hill to stay on March 29th, 1926.

The move out was a memorable one. Laura Giselman drove a team with a load of pigs, chickens, turkeys, the cat and the dog. This load upset just west of Penhold. Other teams were driven by Mr. Pye, a cousin Ellis Pye, and one each by Mr. and Mrs. Leithead. Jim's brother, Murray, rode a horse and drove the cattle out.

The weather was warm and bright so they had a good trip. Good times were had at Happy Hill. The neighbors were kind and helpful and a wonderful community spirit prevailed, but times were often hard. Hail and frost took its toll and one year they had no crop, no garden, not a thing. Jim went back to Horn Hill to help his father-in-law thresh, and earned enough money to buy clothing for the three children to wear to school. The teacher, Laura Norton, would make soup and bring it to school, which the children enjoyed. Other times when the crops were short, Jim would work in the bush for Bill Hansen.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Leithead took an active part in the community. Jim served on the school board and he along with his neighbors worked on the roads in the summer for the municipality. In the depression years this was the only way they could pay their taxes.

Jim liked to go big game hunting and often went with Alex Duncan and B.O. Learned. He also enjoyed curling, and belonged to the Evarts Curling Club. He was a member of the Orange Lodge.

Alf joined the Army in Feb. 1941 and went overseas three months later. He was taken prisoner at Dieppe in August of 1942, and spent the remainder of the war in a German prison camp.

Tom joined the Army in 1942 and was sent overseas, also. Soon after this, tragedy struck the family when on April 12th, 1943, Jim was drowned in the Medicine River at Evarts. The neighbors came to their aid and put the crop in. Tom was able to get a discharge from the Army on compassionate grounds and came home to look after the farm.

Tom married and took over the farm.

Mrs. Leithead and Margaret moved to Red Deer. It was a difficult move for Mrs. Leithead as she loved the country, the district and its people.

Mrs. Leithead remarried and is now Mrs. L. Blackburn and resides at Haney, B.C. Margaret married Dennis Scott. They farm in the Penhold area and have four children; James, Donald, Jack and Norma. Malcolm born in 1952, passed away.

ALFRED LEITHEAD

Alf was released from prison camp a few days before the Second World War ended, and arrived home in July. He bought the home farm.

In 1946, he married Gwen Scott of the Penhold district. The same day, Alf's sister Margaret, married Gwen's brother, Dennis Scott. Alf was a member of the Happy Hill school board, at the time the new school was built (1949).

Gwen joined the Happy Hill Ladies Club and mentions a particular meeting when all the ladies and children got stranded at Ella Reighley's. It is certainly a good thing that in those days the people would find a bit of humor, and it seems to me they were always able to look to the sunny side of things.

It took place Feb. 10, 1949 at the home of Steve and Ella Reighley. A terrible blizzard came up while the meeting was in progress. The ladies, three with small babies, had to stay at Ella's from two to three days. Some of the husbands had brought their wives

and they walked home to look after the chores, fires, etc. Steve had just butchered a beef, so in the middle of the first night, everyone enjoyed beef stew. The old roan cow, Flossie, just hung right in there and put out a good serving for the children.

Madeline Glenn was chief bread baker. And, Grandma (Amm) Budvarson kept the coffee brewing. Mrs. T. Black Sr. read tea cups. I am sure that after this meeting, no one knows better than Steve Reighley how Brigham Young must have felt.

Gwen's birthday, May 11, 1954, Royal and Kristie Raymond and Alex and Norma Grant and Kim, who also had a birthday on May 11th, went to have coffee with Alf and Gwen. On their way home, on the tractor, they got stuck in a low gully in the field and had to walk home. The next day, before Alf and Royal were able to get the tractor out, the creek rose so high it covered the tractor, and all you could see was the exhaust pipe sticking out of the water.

After a series of poor crops, Alf and Gwen left the farm in 1956 and moved to Red Deer. Alf accepted work with the Provincial Government.

They have three children, Larry, Leonard and Gail.

TOM LEITHEAD

Tom married Anne Selstrom of the Burnt Lake district. They took over the family farm, and later bought a quarter section (NE26-37-3-5) of land from Jesse Craig. It was a raw quarter of land, and took much elbow grease and sweat to get it cleared, but eventually the task was completed. To mark the event, Tom set Anne on his lap and had her steer the tractor as they plowed their first furrow together. Herb Jobs drilled their well.

Tom and Anne planned their house, and with the help of Pete Hillman and his brother Joe, they got the main structure up. Anne's brother, Carl, did the basement. Almost every day that summer it rained, so, it was indeed a great day when the roof was finished. Around their building site were some nice clumps of trees and willows. However, the beaver decided they also needed new homes and stole their trees from them.

Tom grew up from boyhood with Elmer Nielsen as his side-kick. They worked together a lot, and, I imagine that they likely also raised a little hanky-panky on Saturday nights.

Tom and Anne's house was built quite close to a creek and usually in the spring it would flood. The water would go over the road and bridge and the children would miss school. One year they did move out for a few days. And another year, when a baby was expected, Anne went to Benalto and stayed with her brother, Carl Selstrom and family. Anne says the stories were usually bigger than the floods.

Tom and Anne left the farm in 1957 when Tom went to work for Standard General of Calgary.

They have four children — Bill, Gary, Marilyn and Margaret.

GUS LOLIET

My earlier life began in Mamel, East Germany. Our family was a total of seven, Mom, Dad, three

sisters and one brother. Father was a small farmer of about fifty morgen, which is about fifty acres here in Canada. Mixed farming was our bag, growing rye, barley, oats, a few pigs and cattle. During that time money was hard to come by, which meant many things were sacrificed in order to continue our means of survival. Although we were quite poor, we always were a close and happy family, dreaming of the riches that grow on those beautiful trees in Canada. I was not one for dreaming too much, but wanted to prosper on some of that wealth that existed there.

In May 1928, I decided to make the journey to Canada. Father gave me two hundred and twenty-five dollars and sent me on my way. I packed the few belongings I had, in my suitcase, bought the boat ticket, which cost two hundred dollars, and was left with the remaining twenty-five dollars to spend in the strange and unknown world across the ocean. This was quite an excursion, only sixteen years old, very little money, and the thought of going was scary, but golly! I just had to prosper on some of that wealth.

After landing in Halifax, I boarded a train which took me to the bright lights of Edmonton. I spent fourteen years working for farmers in the Nisku area, until news went around that great fortunes lay ahead in the Markerville area.

In 1940 I purchased a quarter section of land in this area and spent my first year batching and farming with a dear friend, Wolfgang Pfisterer. Wolfe had a small saw mill which we worked on during the winter months, sawing and planing lumber.

I must admit that Wolfe was a good buddy and partner, however, I began to have this strange and unusual yearning for a special mate. It all happened when I hitched a ride with the neighbors to Nisku. After a short stay there, I found myself proposing to Hedwig Lothar, for her hand in marriage. After a two day wedding celebration I brought my dear wife to my paradise. It was a priceless sight to see, a little old 12' x 18' shack, straw barn, coal shed, a steel wheeled John Deere tractor and the odd run down implement. I not only gained a wife, but also two cows, one horse, a few pigs and the necessary items a married man should have.

Hardships and hard work prevailed the first year but joy lay ahead, for mother was showing signs of being blessed with our first child, Beverley. Things really didn't go that well, with hail storms damaging crops, severe frosts, not to mention the over abundance of weeds and wild oats.

No matter how bad things went, Mother blessed us with two more daughters, Shirley and Betty. We got a 1940 two door Ford Coach, and believe me, driving was a different experience from driving my horse drawn democrat. What a great blessing this old beast was to us when one day it delivered mother to the hospital to make me the proud father of our red-headed son. Now that I had a son, I decided to increase my property, so I purchased a quarter of land in 1956, from Herb Hansen. As our children grew, our small worries became big worries, as the old shack was just too small and inconvenient for them,

so Daddy made plans to build a three bedroom farm bungalow.

In 1961 another quarter was bought from Charles Lechelt. As time slipped by, our daughters moved to the city to work for themselves. It wasn't long until our family increased by two son-in-laws.

We have not regretted the hardships, the good times, the experiences we have had together. We give God our thanks for our prosperity. After forty-two years I was able to take my wife to my homeland to visit my relatives.

MOUNTS AND MURRAY

On March 6th, 1921, Dan Mount, his wife Ann and three stepsons, James, William and Andrew Murray arrived from Medicine Hat to live on the SW28-37-3-W5. They bought the land from Mr. Schilander, which had previously been homesteaded by Eric Hendrickson, Aaron Erickson's father.

Later they bought SE28 from Mr. Keely of Sangudo.

Dan Mount was born in Nebraska and Mrs. Mount was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. The youngest son, Andrew, was also born in Aberdeen while the parents had gone back for a holiday.

Dan Mount passed away in 1955. Mrs. Mount passed away in 1966. She was an active member of the Happy Hill Ladies Club.

The young people put on plays and travelled to surrounding districts with them. Andrew married Selma Pykalainen from Alhambra, who taught the Happy Hill School. They live in Sylvan Lake where Andrew is town foreman. They had seven children: Gayle, Danny (passed away 1958), Glen, Phillip, Sharon, Bonnie and Shauna.

In 1939 William was killed by lightning.

James remained on the farm in partnership with his stepfather.

JACK MURDOCK

Jack and his brother, Andy, came from County Down, near Belfast, Ireland in 1900 and stayed in Montreal the first winter while working in a wholesale liquor and grocery store. The C.P.R. and Canadian Government advertised homestead land, 160 acres for \$10.00, plenty of pasture for cattle and horses, fields of grain with binders, a nice young wife to bring out lunch. This aroused their interest.

In the fall of 1901 they came to Calgary and Edmonton looking for land, then back to Red Deer where they got a livery team and drove out to the Evarts district. Mr. and Mrs. Orin Evarts, who came from the Dakotas, lived on the Harvey Jackson place.

Andy homesteaded NW36-37-3-W5 now owned by Robert Gowans. Jack homesteaded NW18-37-2-W5. They built a log shack on Andy's place, late in the fall when the ground was frozen, also dug a well down through the frost and used clay from the well to plaster the log shack. There was an earthen floor in the shack, covered with dead grass. Hay was borrowed from Fritz Giselman for the roof. At Evarts the men met Billy Woof, an Englishman, also looking for land. All three spent the winter together. The first cold spell came and having only a cook stove it was

pretty frigid. Early in the morning, Jack decided to get up, stoke the fire and get breakfast. Billy Woof let out a squawk. On examination, Mr. Woof's flowing moustache was frozen to the blanket. Over a foot of the blanket was covered with hoar frost from their breath. After that the boys got a heater.

The only other settlers west of the Medicine River were Louie Olson, Swan and Alvin Lingrim, Fritz Giselman and Mr. and Mrs. Evarts.

Jack and Andy joined up for the Boer War in 1902. When they left they took several car loads of horses for use in the war. Jack helped look after them for 26 days on the boat. Several horses died while crossing the equator on account of the heat. The horses were for the Lord Strathcona Horse. The company sailed for Cape Town, then were ordered to Durban. While disembarking, one of the horses jumped out of the chute into the ocean. A colored fellow jumped out and landed on his back and headed him to land. Going back earlier in the story, while unloading the horses from the train, an Eastern young man jumped on one of the horses, which was an outlaw. It bucked him off and trampled him to death.

After leaving Durban they were shipped up to Newcastle by train into the Zululand. They laid in the open that night because tents were not up yet. Soldiers were not cared for and some became very lousy. Water had to be hauled in a big barrel built on a high wheeled cart. These were hauled by oxen or mules, eight or ten to a cart, and were driven by two colored men, one a driver, the other with a whip.

There were 1400 men on a boat coming back to Canada. One evening the canteen was taken over by two soldiers, who gave out beer generously. All were punished later by a fine of \$8.00 whether involved or not.

During their absence at war, another settler, Hadderick, came from Oregon with his wife and four children. This man was not faithful to his wife so after a year or two she hitched up the team to a democrat and with her children drove back to Oregon.

Coming back to his land Jack built a shack and a barn. Later he went to Calgary and worked as a brick layer. While there he met his wife, Rooney Bjornson. In 1910 they were married in Vancouver. They bought 40 acres at Langley Prairie and stayed there for seven years before returning to Alberta. The Murdocks lived a year on the Morrison place in the Craig district. The homestead was sold to J.M. Craig in 1911. The barn was moved to the Craig place and used until recently.

In 1918, he bought the home quarter which is now farmed by son, Andy.

The Murdocks raised a family of five. Andrew, the eldest son, has a family of three sons. Margaret and Jim are twins. Margaret makes her home in Edmonton where she teaches school. Jim farms southeast of Red Deer. Jim has a family of three, one boy and two girls. Johnny farms nearby and has a family of six. Frank, the youngest makes his home in Red Deer.

Mrs. Murdock died in 1958 after a lingering illness. Jack is now retired and makes his home in Red Deer.

ANDREW H. NIELSEN by Bernice Nielsen

A.H. Nielsen immigrated to Iowa, U.S.A. from Denmark in the early nineteen hundreds. There he met and married Dagmar Anderson who was also from Denmark, and was enrolled in a cooking school.

In 1918 they moved by train to Canada and settled in the Hussar district of southeastern Alberta. In 1925, after having only two crops in seven years due to the drought, Mr. Nielsen and a neighbor set out to look for a new home for their families, and discovered a Danish settlement in the Dickson area. When first arriving at Dickson, Nielsens lived on land rented from Carl Christiansen and later on land rented from Enghauges.

The Nielsen family made the journey from Hussar to Innisfail by railroad, loading all of their livestock and machinery into a boxcar. When arriving at Innisfail they were allowed two days use of the C.P.R. yard and then had to move their stock and belongings out of the yards. Machinery, furniture and personal belongings were loaded into a wagon and hauled, and the livestock was herded to Dickson and there Mr. Nielsen put them in a corral for the night. When awakening in the morning he found he had eight head of horses missing but they were soon found. They had let themselves out of the corral and returned to the C.P.R. yards at Innisfail. Nielsen's tom cat also decided to leave the family at Innisfail and start a new life for himself.

In the spring of 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen bought in the Happy Hill District, SE23-37-3-W5 from the C.P.R. It was previously owned by Arni and Julius Bardal who had turned it back to the C.P.R. for resale. The land was bought for about \$12.00 per acre and the payments were one third of your crop if it could be spared. Oats sold for as low as five cents per bushel, and wheat sometimes sold as high as thirty-five cents per bushel.

When the Nielsens arrived in the Happy Hill district they had accumulated some machinery, one saddle horse, eight head of work horses, fifteen cows, and a shorthorn bull. The bull developed a fine bruised blue spot on his posterior from being tapped with a little piece of board to make him walk a little faster.

The home waiting for Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen and their three children, Emil, Elmer and Norma was a ten by twelve foot log house which they used for a kitchen and dining room. A tent, and later a granary was used for sleeping quarters. There were only two acres of land cleared. In 1928 lumber for a new house was bought from Jess Sandberg who was sawing lumber on the L. Christensen property near Dickson. The cost of the lumber was thirty-six dollars per thousand feet. Shingles, nails, bricks and windows were purchased from the T. Eaton Co. of Canada and George Sterling at Benalto. To completely build their home cost about six hundred and fifty dollars.

Arni Bardal was chief carpenter, Bill Hansen hewed the timbers to support the house. They were assisted in the carpentering by Mr. Nielsen and Andy Anderson (Mrs. Nielsen's brother). In the fall the family moved into their new home and everyone caught a cold!

Many memorable times were spent in this house listening to Mr. Nielsen play his accordion. Having a very good ear for music he would hear a new tune somewhere, then he would whistle it for awhile and before long he was playing it. He would also play at the local school for dancing, very often accompanied by Hans Kappel also playing an accordion and Steve Reighley playing the fiddle. Mrs. Kay Watson tells me that at each of these parties everyone would look forward to and enjoy the Danish pastry that Mrs. Nielsen would always bring.

Elmer tells me that some Sundays the family would all pile into the model T Ford which they bought while living at Dickson, and go for an outing. One particular Sunday drive sticks very well in his mind. It goes like this:

"We went for a drive down by the Red Deer River looking for berries. After awhile Dad lit his pipe and announced it was time to head for home. By the smell of things we soon knew something was burning. Sure enough, a spark from Dad's pipe had fallen on the seat and it was smoldering along pretty well. We didn't have any water with us but the fire had to be extinguished. Since the fire was Dad's fault we decided it was up to him to put it out. But how! The inevitable happened. Mom and us kids were all shooed out of the car while dad put the fire out."

Along with the good times and building, hard work kept the family fit and busy. Mr. Nielsen purchased a horse drawn brushcutter and twenty-six acres of land were cleared. Eight head of horses pulled the brushcutter around in a circle and after each round the brush would have to be removed to make way for the next round.

This land was seeded to wheat in the spring of 1929. One Sunday in July, Julie Bardal paid a visit and suggested to Mr. Nielsen he should take a picture of his wheat because he would never see another crop as nice as it was. A few days later the crop was hailed down, so to make a living for his family Mr. Nielsen went stooking and later threshing for O.W. Nielsen.

In 1930 when depression hit, the model T Ford was converted to a Bennett buggy. The hungry thirties arrived and so did a new daughter Rose Marie.

About 1931 Mr. Nielsen bought a Titan tractor and a Vanslyke breaking plough at George Anderson's auction sale near Dickson. This certainly made breaking easier, since the poor old horses were playing out. Emil and Elmer assisted by Tom Leithead did the clearing and breaking on a crop share basis for their Dad. They sold some of the wood to the Wecker family. Dave, Dan and John Wecker did the hauling.

In the mid thirties a barn was built with lumber purchased from S.H. Budvarson, W.J. Hansen and Leo Schmidek who were operating a saw mill. Andy

Anderson and Elmer built the barn. Compliments were received from Pete Hillman, so Andy and Elmer were well pleased with their efforts.

A threshing machine and a high wheeled wagon were purchased from Mr. Cowan, the International Harvester dealer at Eckville. No cash payments were involved to buy machinery. Whatever amount of grain could be spared for payment, was hauled to the elevator and the cash ticket was sent to the machine company. The International Harvester people were very nice to deal with. They did not even charge interest. Mr. Nielsen did threshing throughout the district, the season usually lasted about twenty-five days.

Mr. Nielsen passed away on December 23, 1937. He is buried in the Dickson cemetery. Mrs. Nielsen remained on the farm until 1948 when she moved to Sylvan Lake. While on the farm she was always busy, cooking, sewing, spinning wool and knitting, crocheting, as well as raising very nice gardens. Mrs. Nielsen will be seventy-eight years of age in January 1969. She still is active in her hobbies and enjoys attending card games, bingos, shows and visiting friends.

Norma and two friends, Miss Greta Pearson and Miss Ruby Clay, operated a cafe at Innisfail. It has since burned down but was located at the junction of main street and the 2A highway. In 1945 Norma and Miss Ethel Caton worked in highway construction kitchens along the Alaska Highway while it was being built. Norma married Alex Grant. They operated the farm for several years before Alex reinlisted in the airforce. They are now stationed at C.F.B. Cold Lake, Alberta where Alex is a radar control operator. They have two children Kim and Kent.

Rose attended Normal School at Calgary. She taught at schools throughout the local area, as well as Lacombe and Red Deer. Rose married Noel Moody of Australia and they now live at Nanaimo B.C. where they operate a stationery store. Rose is also teaching school. They have two children, Craig and Lisa.

Emil was very clever and interested in electricity but due to illness he was unable to follow up his interests. He now resides at Ponoka, Alberta.

Elmer, not caring too much for the three r's, left school as soon as possible and helped with farming on his parents' land as well as on his uncle's quarter which Elmer later bought from him, NW23-37-3-W5. It was while picking roots there that Elmer and Emil were first caught smoking willow leaves. During the latter part of the thirties to about 1943 Elmer worked during the winter for Henry Johnson.

From 1945 to 1951 Elmer worked in British Columbia. He returned to Alberta and resumed breaking land until 1954 when he started farming again. Elmer enjoys remodeling and inventing machinery, fishing and the odd good dance and all its trimmings plus trying to recall the family history for me. Elmer and I were married in 1959 and live on the Nielsen farm. We have one cat!! Blackie (adopted).

O.M. AND O.E. NIELSEN FAMILIES

Oli Maddison Nielsen emigrated from Denmark to Wall Lake, Iowa U.S.A. in 1876. He married Elizabeth Klitzke on Feb. 17, 1897. They had three children born in Iowa; Mae, Everett and Orla.

They moved to Dundurn, Saskatchewan, in 1906. The remainder of their family were born there; the twins, Murle and Myron, Laurel and Roy. The family then moved to the Evarts district in 1919 buying the farm from Donald Smith called the "Island Ranch". Mr. Nielsen moved to the Happy Hill district west of the Happy Hill school where he bought a piece of Hudson's Bay land. He lived there for eleven years, then sold to Mr. and Mrs. Percy Buckle. Mr. Nielsen moved to an acreage, east of Red Deer, where he lived for a short time before finally moving to Seattle, Washington. He continued to live there until his death at the age of ninety-three, Jan. 30, 1966.

Mae, married Oscar Stoltenberg in the United States and after seven years of marriage died of a heart ailment at the age of forty-two. Everett, married Lillian Nielsen of Benalto and has two children, Lorne (Tuni) and Lorraine. Orla married Edna Krogh of Stauffer. They have three children, Shirley, Darwin and Dale. Murle married Margaret Cummings of Calgary and they have three children: Lee, Marlys and Twyla. Myron married Barbara Murphy of the Diamond Valley district and they have four children; Virginia, Wayne, Mervin and Raymond. They also had twins who died at birth — a girl and boy, also a baby girl who died at birth. Laurel married Mary Palm of the Bentley district. They have one son, Gary. Roy married Inez Johnson of Benalto. Benalto.

Orla and Edna moved to the Happy Hill district in 1936 where they rented the farm of E.J. Munson of Calgary, which had formerly been rented to Bill Fountain.

They enjoyed thirteen years in the Happy Hill district, having Edna's sister Verna and her husband Ed, (who were married shortly after they moved there) as their nearest neighbors. Raising their young families together made many an interesting time, enabling the children to enjoy going to the same school; and baby sitting was easily solved by mutual co-operation.

While there, Orla served on the school board as trustee and secretary and helped with the Sunday school and with the vacation Bible school each summer.

Edna was a member of the Ladies Club. She found everyone to be of the friendliest nature, and remembers how Dolly Scott was one never to forget a birthday or anniversary. Many is the time she would come with a pretty birthday cake or something special, by surprise, and we would enjoy an afternoon of coffee and her goodies.

On the funny side we recall, one Hallowe'en night Royal and Christie Raymond, and Orla and Edna donned some old big men's suits, blackened their faces and travelled to the different places for tricks and treats, ending at Steve Reighley's. Someone got

the crazy notion of getting a hen from the henhouse and bringing it along. Royal and Orla climbed in the bedroom window and slid the hen into the kitchen where Ella was sitting on a stool knitting. If Ella ever jumped that high again it would be a record. We were afraid for a moment she was going to faint, but good old Ella came around.

Another very exciting time was on a Saturday night in the spring when all the leaves were on the trees about 1947. Orla decided to take his family to the lake for a show. On their way they met Percy and Rene Buckle and the kids on their way home. The Niensens enjoyed the show and coming out to the lobby, there sat Percy and Rene. When asked why they were still there, they said it was snowing so hard they couldn't see to drive, so thought it would be better if all went at the same time. This seemed unbelievable until we started home. Well, those flakes were so big and so wet that they just packed onto the windows so that the wipers couldn't move. Rene and Edna had to lean out the windows to help keep the wipers moving, and the Buckles had to stay at the Nielsen's house for a couple of days as the snow was so deep that the men had to take the horses with the stoneboat to take Rene and the kids home.

That storm broke many young trees from the weight of the snow and the telephone wires were so loaded they nearly touched the ground.

In 1949 Orla, Edna and family moved from Happy Hill district to Benalto, where they purchased an acreage from the late Langton Wells. Orla went into business of his own Contracting and Excavating.

Fraternally, Orla is a member of the Benalto Elks No. 404 and Edna is a member of the Order of the Royal Purple No. 233 which keeps them interested in assisting in organization, and catering to banquets, wedding receptions etc.

THE W. O'NEIL FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil and family moved to the Ben Reighley farm in 1918. They were originally from Manitoba, but prior to coming to the Happy Hill district resided in the Balmoral district east of Red Deer. Their family consisted of seven children still at home.

Walter was married and lived on the Dunsmore place, now owned by Dan Schmidek. Arthur died some years ago, after moving into Red Deer. Annie married Herbert Heath, and lives at Haney B.C. Gerty married Jack Urquhart, has three children and resides at Dawson Creek B.C. Stella is married, lives in New Westminster B.C. and has two sons and a daughter. Stanley married Ruby Kidwell. They live at Drumheller and have a son and daughter. Herbert lives in Whitehorse, Yukon. Abe married and lived for some time at Brooks. He passed away there.

They lived on the Reighley farm for two years and then moved into Red Deer in 1920, where both Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil died some years later.

WOLFEGANG PFISTERER by Florence (Forster) Glasere

In 1920 Wolfgang Pfisterer was persuaded by his mother, that he and his sister Maria should go to

Canada, that pastures were greener across the ocean.

They had cousins in Alberta so they were contacted. My father, the late Edward Forster and his brother Mike sent the money to them to buy the fare and passports. They arrived in Leduc on Easter Sunday 1921. A cousin Erna Miller came with them and the voyage from Amberg, Germany was long and tiresome for three young lonesome people.

The Forster brothers drove five miles of mud road with a team and democrat, and brought them to our home on the farm. Wolfe was sixteen years old at the time and the experience of leaving home and family was not a happy occasion for him and his sister. The pastures were not as green as their mother had envisioned them.

Wolfe told my Dad, that he had no knowledge of farming and that he trained as a shoemaker. So Dad bought a shoe last and some forms, but he soon found that Wolfe highly detested repairing shoes. It was never suggested to him again, to take up the work. He stayed on the farm and worked for my uncles.

In 1928 new horizons opened up when Leo Schmidek returned from a trip to Markerville, with news that there was good land in that area for sale at a reasonable price. Ed Forster and Wolfe decided to have a look, so made the trip by Calgary Trail, to Innisfail and to the home of Dan Schmidek at Craig. The Schmidek family always provided food and beds for all who arrived there.

Wolfe bought land in the Craig district and my Dad bought a half section in Happy Hill from the C.P.R. In 1930, Wolfe, along with a group of German settlers, moved into the area. My Dad gave Wolfe a team of horses, a wagon, a cow and some machinery. He and Herman Schatschneider had to ride a freight train to look after the animals.

My Dad had cleared and broke 120 acres on his place, had it fenced, built a small log house and barn so Wolfe moved in there. Due to financial difficulties, Wolfe did not keep his place but worked for neighbors and with the help of these friends he was able to put in the crop and harvest some grain.

My father being a lumber man, saw a future in having a saw mill to make lumber from all those large trees in the area. He built a saw mill at our home in Nisku, loaded it on a trailer behind the car to take it to the farm at Markerville. My Mother, Dolly Forster, now 82 years young, still relates the story of how she and my Dad spent a day and a night sitting in the car in the middle of a mud hole, until Wolfe came and rescued them with his team of horses. The saw mill was a real boon for all the farmers.

Wolfe took over the farm from the Forster estate in 1937 and spent the rest of his life farming and raising cattle until 1961. He passed away of a heart attack while helping his neighbor Steve Reighley with the harvest.

He was laid to rest in the Sylvan Lake cemetery.

ROYAL RAYMOND by Kristie Raymond

We moved to the Happy Hill district in 1943 and lived on the Reighley place. In 1944 we purchased SW31-37-2-W5 from Edward Giselman. There were

no buildings on the land. The well was drilled by Herb Jobs and Wolf Phfisterer. We moved in March 1945 and have lived here since.

Hail was the biggest problem; we had hail seven years out of nine. The last storm was in 1960, which was 100%. In 1954 it was very wet and harvesting was not completed. 1968, another wet year, left a lot of crops to be harvested in the spring.

The creek runs through our place and flooded its banks nearly every spring until the cement bridge was put in, in 1957. The road would be flooded for a long distance and quite deep. This being the main road from Benalto, we had many anxious moments when people would cross. Luckily there were no accidents.

One amusing incident comes to mind. One Sunday morning a man came walking and insisted he had to get to the other side. With Royal's help, he built a raft. Being a native Canadian, we thought he would be an expert, so putting the raft in the water, equipped with a long pole, he stepped on. The front end came up and down into the water he went. Royal was unable to hide his amusement, which added much to the man's annoyance. He strode right into the water. We were very relieved when he made it to the other side. Needless to say, the Giselmans had to find some dry clothing for him, and I'm sure he found another way back.

Royal was born in Gull Lake, Sask. He left Sask. in 1935, spent one winter in Vancouver and then came to the Markerville district in 1936.

My maiden name was "Budvarson". I was born on the "homestead" in the New Hill district. I started school at New Hill with Mr. Hollingshead as my teacher. I completed my high school at Crescent Heights School in Calgary where again Mr. Hollingshead was one of my teachers. I took a secretarial course at the Garbutt Business College in Calgary.

Royal and I were married in 1938. Royal worked at the Innisfail Creamery and Pixley's Service Station. We farmed in the Knee Hill Valley and Craig districts before moving to Happy Hill.

We have one daughter Sharon who was employed in the Municipal Office Red Deer. She married Robert Pollitt from Alhambra. They have four children Wendy, Darren, twins Marilee and Melanee. They reside at Leslieville. Bob is employed with The Texaco Oil Company.

BENEDICT J. REIGHLEY by Dazerrene Reighley McCarter

In 1907 Ben Reighley came to Red Deer. While looking for land he hired out to a livery stable to drive buyers through the country.

Ben chose SE1/4-27-37-3-5 (C.P.R. land), obtained at \$3.00 per acre with a number of years to pay. He also homesteaded the SE1/4-1-38-4-5.

Ben returned to Farber, Missouri for his wife and four children Dazerrene, Darlene, Dorothy and Stephen. They packed all their goods in one Immigrant Car, a team of horses, harness, few chickens (never stopped laying all the way) walking plow,

harrows, tools, furniture including a sewing machine and a folding bed, a hundred pound carton of long green tobacco, shoe last, butter churn and a coffee grinder. The family stayed on the "Old Collett Place" at first. Here they reaped their first crop of oats. Bob Wilson threshed this crop with a Horse Tread mill threshing machine which featured ten or twelve teams hitched to a Merry-Go-Round type of power axle. The youngsters were thrilled with the horses but it was not so amusing when Papa Ben handed the whip to Dazerrene and told her to keep things moving. Ben made expert farm workers out of his daughters, he figured one son and two or three of the daughters could handle most situations.

It was in this house they boarded the first of many teachers, Miss Katie Wilson.

"The Home Place" was ready by the winter of 1908. Four daughters were born here, Gladys Alberta, (the first Canadian Reighley), Margaret, Bertha and Drexel.

More land was purchased until total holding read a full section and a quarter when Ben was ready to step aside and Steve and his wife Ella took over.

Mother Reighley was one with a great flare of ingenuity and resourcefulness. "Santa didn't always come to the Reighley home loaded for bear, but there was always something in our stockings, home-made candies, rag doll with button eyes, little dresses made with smocking and cross stitch" said Dazerrene. Ben was ever ready to help in anything that would better his community and Mother Reighley took her place with most of the Women's Organizations. Ben passed away in 1946, his wife in 1971, at the age of 92 years.

STEPHEN GRANVILLE REIGHLEY

Stephen Reighley was born in Farber, Missouri, U.S.A.

At the age of one year he came to Canada with his parents and three older sisters and settled in the Happy Hill District.

He farmed with his father till 1929 and then rented the home farm from his father till March 1933 at which time he moved to a farm at Leslieville. In 1933 he married Ella Budvarson who was a hairdresser and worked in Calgary. They farmed at Leslieville for 12 years. In 1945 he purchased the original home farm in the Happy Hill district, Sec. 27-37-3-W5.

They were both active in community affairs. Both belonged to the Benalto Curling Club, also the Elks Lodge and O.O.R.P.

In 1962, they sold their farm to Donald Campbell and moved to Red Deer where they have made their home. Steve is employed with the Alberta Hail Board.

They have two children. Ronald completed a three year course in Psychiatric Nursing, got his R.N. in Calgary, and took two years at McGill University to obtain his degree in Nursing. He is now teaching at the Alberta Hospital at Ponoka.

Jo Anne took a secretarial course and worked at Parson's Clinic. She married Arthur Jarvis and they reside in Red Deer. They have three children: Trena, Darcy, and Trudy.

DAN SCHMIDEK

Dan Schmidek was born in Poland in 1889 and came to America in 1909.

Mrs. Schmidek was born in Poland and came to Canada at the age of five months. She was born in 1889. They were married at Dunmore, in 1912. In 1925, the Schmideks moved from Medicine Hat to the former Chatwood place which is now owned by Marvin Schmidek (NE34-36-3-W5). The house they moved into was a log shack.

In 1928, homesteading fever set in and a move was made to Wolf Creek, west of Edmonton, but in the fall they moved back to the Baldwin place SW32-36-2-5 now owned by Eric Matson.

In 1934, they moved to the former Dunsmore place which they bought from Ben Reighley SE22-37-3-5. This land was heavy with bush. Mr. Schmidek and Ed cleared it away by hand, as there was no equipment available to use.

They attended the Craig Lutheran Church. In 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Schmidek retired to Red Deer.

There are nine children in the family: Ed — farms in the Happy Hill district; Anna — (Mrs. Herb Jobs) Eckville; Mary — Red Deer, Alberta; Rosie — (Mrs. Ducote) Port Arthur, Texas; Winnie — (Mrs. Ottenbriel) North Bay, Ontario; Margaret — Calgary; Ruby (Mrs. Thompson) Red Deer; Gertie — (Mrs. Budd) Calgary; Olga — (Mrs. Chaboyer) Calgary.

ED SCHMIDEK

Ed was born at Coleridge, Alberta and moved with his parents to the Craig district. He moved to the Happy Hill district where he farmed with his father, and in 1957, bought land from Herb Jobs SW23-37-3-5. He also farms the Pete Carlyle land SE22-37-3-5, and has purchased the home place from his dad.

Ed married Mrs. Esther Brown (widowed) of Didbury. Her birthplace was Herbert, Saskatchewan.

Ed and Esther attend the Craig Lutheran Church. They belong to the Happy Hill Community Club. Ed keeps busy farming, and Esther has her vegetable garden and flowers that need not take second place to any.

There are four children: Mrs. Henry Daku — Kipling, Saskatchewan, Mrs. Henry Krahn — Brooks, Alberta, Richard Brown — Concordia College, Edmonton and Terry Brown — who lives at home with his parents.

C.W. (CHARLIE) SCOTT

Charlie was born at Markerville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Scott. After finishing school he farmed with a brother and worked for Einer Stephenson. In 1932, Charlie bought his farm in the Happy Hill district NE23-37-3-5 from Julius Bardal. At this time the house was located in the middle of the quarter. With the help of his brother, Vern, and Joe Johnson, he cleared his land, using five or six horses to pull the brush cutter. The brush cutter he used was pulled around in a circle; someone had to follow behind the cutter and throw the cut brush out of the way before the cutter could make the second swath. In the spring, he began to rebuild his farmstead in the northeast corner of the quarter.

Now, Charlie wasn't all work and no play, because somewhere along the way he met up with a cute little brunette. Her name was Dolly Gentry, who was born at Merriman, Nebraska. Charlie set out to the States in his Model A half-ton and on the 8th of August 1933, Charlie and Dolly were married at Hot Springs, S.D. Dolly's sister had previously married Charlie's brother, Lindy Scott. When they arrived back, the neighbors called on them and welcomed Dolly to the community with a rousing chivaree.

In 1955, Charlie bought NW14-37-3-5 from the Harry Hillman estate. The grave of Mrs. Ploughmaker is located on this quarter of land.

Charlie and Dolly have one son, Frank, who is in the drywall business. He is married and lives in Edmonton. Also two daughters; Donna — (Mrs. Norman Gunderson) Calgary and Marlene — (Mrs. Fred Vandaberg) of Calgary.

Charlie and Dolly rent out one quarter of land and farm one. They usually spend part of the winter in the United States.

WILLIAM SHEPHERD

Einer Johnson and son Gremur lived on the NE30-37-2-5 in 1898. Gremur later had the store and Post Office in Markerville for many years. This land was homesteaded by Alvis L. Young in 1967, and others who lived there were Carl Lynhome, and Joe Obinonyre. Mr. W. Shepherd Sr. bought in 1920 and rented to his son William Shepherd and son-in-law Mr. Hodges. Mr. Shepherd conducted Church services at the Happy Hill School. Miss Beatrice Nichols, his housekeeper conducted Sunday School. Douglas Ball bought in 1932 and sold to Lloyd and Norman Lester in 1972.

HUGH SWAIN

Hughie and Valeria Swain lived on the quarter west of the school - SE26-37-3-W5th. They had three girls. They returned to Marylands, U.S.A.

PAUL TENNANT

Paul served in the Armed Forces and returned to Happy Hill in 1946, having bought S1/2-19-37-2 from Jesse Craig. Paul was killed in a car accident in 1953. They had four children: Margaret, Paul, Robert and Shirley. Thora married Delbert Shanks (now deceased) and they have one daughter, Rose Marie. Thora sold to Doan Ball and moved to Innisfail.

EMMANUEL WECKER

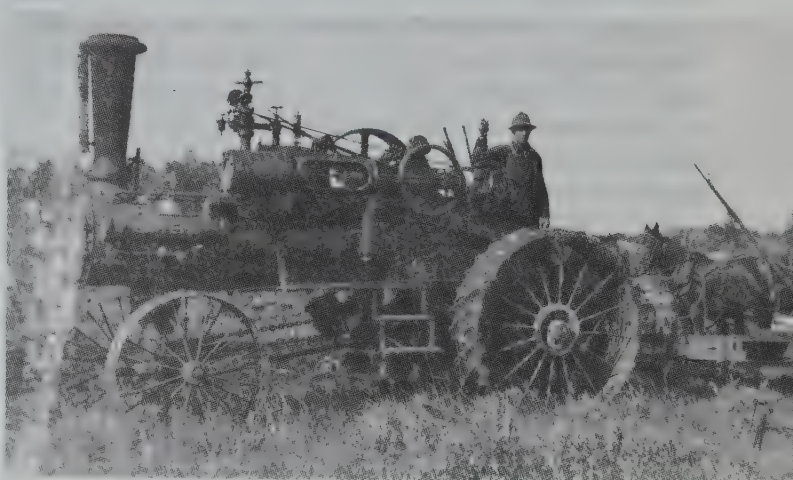
In 1933, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wecker, their three sons, David, John and Daniel and daughter Mary and Mr. Wecker's mother moved to the Evarts district. David - was born in North Dakota in 1908. David and I, (Freda Bardal), were married in 1938. We had 5 children.

Laura became a school teacher, and married John Olsen of Markerville and they have two children. Twins (Lorne and Larry) died;

Bonnie (Mrs. Peter Olsen) of Markerville has three children and lives in Red Deer. Brian farms with his dad. Laura and Bonnie were active members of the 4-H sewing club and Laura in the Garden Club. Brian

was a member of the Tindastoll Dairy Club and has many trophies for his efforts.

Mrs. Laura Bardal left the farm in 1960 and went to the Autumn Glen Lodge, Innisfail. She died in 1967 at the age of 80.



Bardal ploughing outfit.



Farm scene.



Butchering. A family affair at the Cave's.

HECKLA

BETHEL CHURCH

For two or three years previous to the building of the church, services were held in a log building called Bethel. School classes were held there.

The new church was built in the year 1904 on land donated by Mr. John Parsons on SE30-36-2-W5. It was called Bethel Union Church. This building was financed mostly by cash donations and the labor was volunteered. In 1910 it was plastered and the pews purchased. The first minister was Rev. Robert Scott.

The structure served the district well until 1927 when it was felt to be too small, so a new church was built. This church was also built by free labor, cash donations and financial support from the Bethel Ladies Aid. It was a large frame building with a cement basement. The basement was ideal for serving chicken suppers, except that water seeped into it and it had to be constantly baled out. This was indeed a trial to the members.

The first elders were George Flake, William Anderson and Beuphard Baker. In 1929 Rev. Stanton of Innisfail United Church dedicated Bethel Church.

This church was served by student ministers from May till September each year, assisted by ordained ministers from Innisfail on special occasions. These students served the districts of Bethel, Raven, Stauffer and Caroline, making Raven their headquarters. They travelled many miles on horseback, graduating to bicycles and Model T Fords later on.

One student minister by the name of Wheeler was travelling from Bethel to Raven one day. While crossing the Dickson Creek, which was very high, his

horse slipped and in he went. He went to bed at the James Lewis home while his clothes were dried, then he continued on his way. History does not say if he were late for services.

In the late 1940's services were discontinued in the church. It stood empty until the early 1950's at which time it was sold to Clarence Rhodes.

It was destroyed by fire in 1971.

BETHEL LADIES AID

The first meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Baker in the fall of 1903. The purpose of the meeting was to form an organization to work together and finance a new church. Though the ladies may have been of various denominations, all were willing to support this one church and by so doing satisfy the need for Christian fellowship in the community.



Bethel Ladies Aid — Back: Florence Baldwin, Mrs. S. Rhodes, Mrs. Mustard, Mary Baldwin. Centre: Mrs. Mary Anderson, Mrs. Ben Baker, Mrs. Baldwin. Front: Mrs. Geo. Flake, Meryl Baker, Mrs. Peter Thompson, Sr., (child, Jack Cook).

There were nine charter members — Mrs. Jeremy (President), Mrs. F.W. Castle (Secretary), Mrs. Ben Baker (Treasurer), Mrs. H. Mustard, Mrs. Mary Anderson, Mrs. J. Kelly, Mrs. L. Cook, Mrs. J. Parsons, and Mrs. E. Kelly.

The meetings were held once a month at the homes of the members. The meeting started early in the day and members arrived in spite of the weather, by any means of transportation available. Most of the social activity of the district centred around the Ladies Aid.

New settlers arrived and by 1910 there were twenty members in the group. From 1920 to 1935 the group had grown to forty-six members.

For many years the main objective was to raise money to pay for the new church and to pay the salary of the student ministers. They held chicken suppers, bazaars, ice cream socials and teas.

For a social get together, an annual picnic was the event of the year. People came from miles around to



Building Bethel church

take part in the ball games, races, and most important of all — the eating. Such quantities of delectable food!

The annual Christmas program was another highlight of the year. The adults appreciated the social aspect of the evening, while the children were most happy because of the large candy bags provided by the community.

Through the years our membership has shown a decrease, caused by the death of many old time members and the moving away of many more. Even with a smaller membership we are still an active group.

In 1963 we held a sixtieth anniversary celebration. This was a very happy occasion with many members, including two charter members.

The Ladies Aid sponsor and give some financial help to the Bethel Sunday School. A picnic is held every summer for the Sunday School families, Ladies Aid and friends.

One of our most successful financial ventures has been the sale of our cook books. These books contain recipes from former members, members and friends.

The Bethel Ladies Aid is now sixty-five years old (1968). We feel that it still continues to fulfil its original aims and purposes.

Due to a serious drop in membership, the society was disbanded in 1972.

HECKLA SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the time that Rev. Nyholm was pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson, a number of children attending Sunday School there were from the Heckla district, several miles distant. To make it easier for these children to attend Sunday School and to afford the opportunity to all children in the locality, Rev. Nyholm proposed that a Sunday School be organized in the Heckla School. Those delegated to undertake this work were Mrs. Louis Adamson (who from that time on became known as the mother of the Sunday School) and Mr. Richard Pedersen.

In 1929 a school was established with 25 children and four teachers enrolled. Assisting the organizers were Miss Thora Thompson and Mrs. T.O. Thompson. Mr. Pedersen was organist assisted by Miss Thompson. As a gift to the Sunday School, the adults purchased twelve paper-bound hymn books, which were still in use when the Sunday School celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Under the guidance of the teachers, a Bible Vocation School was held each summer for several years.

Among the students of the Sunday School were two young bachelors, Mr. Axel Brink and Mr. Niels Thesberg, both of whom were regular in attendance. In 1940 Axel and Niels took charge of the school. When they married they recruited their wives as teachers also.

In 1954 when the Sunday School celebrated its silver anniversary, a special commemorative service was held. The founding members and first teachers were in attendance and were presented with gifts.

There were now fifty children, four of whom were the Thesberg's children, and another the son of Axel and Alice Brink. One of the teachers was Mrs. A. Bjarnason the daughter of Mrs. Adamsen. Five of the students were her children.

The two oldest Thesberg children had been confirmed in Bethany Church. Now, Harvey Brink, and Sharon and Axel were nearing the age when they, too, would be attending confirmation classes. It was difficult for both sets of parents to carry the Heckla Sunday School and also get their children to the confirmation class.

For 10 years prior, the United Church minister from Innisfail had been holding bi-monthly services in the school. The Brinks and Thesbergs approached the United Church people to ask if they would assume the direction of the Sunday School. Rev. R.G. Kilgour was the United Church minister. Mr. Brink volunteered to remain with us for a year to assist those who would be in charge now; his offer was gladly accepted. New officers were elected with Glen Walker becoming superintendent, Mrs. Peter Thompson secretary. These two, with Mrs. Marvin Thompson and Axel Brink, were the teaching staff.

About this time, several families left the district and the Sunday School population dropped seriously. At one time there were only three children attending. A class was held in the school supply room on church Sundays and in the children's homes on the alternate Sundays. This program was scarcely launched when 10 more children began attending and once more regular weekly classes were held in the school with one teacher in charge.

But the County of Red Deer decided to convert our school into a teacher's residence so we were deprived of our facilities. The problem was soon solved by Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Baker whose offer of a vacant house on their property was accepted, and the move made.

This arrangement increased enrollment as children from Spruce View began attending. Mrs. Harold Tebb, Mrs. Darwin Baker and Miss Loa Thompson were added to the teaching staff. Mrs. Baker was also the pianist.

Classes were held in the farm house until it became more expedient to move once again. The Spruce View Hall Board offered the use of the hall, so again a door was opened to us and we were happy with the arrangement.

We are now known as the Bethel Sunday School. At the time of writing our enrollment totals 50 students with two adult teachers Mrs. R. Lewis and Mrs. P.G. Thompson and seven junior teachers, Lois Nielsen, Patricia Baker (also pianist) Judy Glen, Leanne Thompson, Susan Hirtle, Jacqueline Lewis and Trudy Bouvette. Special assistant is Mrs. Lyle Olesen.

As always we are grateful to those who continue to support us, to the Parents' Association and to the parents who encourage their children to attend Sunday School and loyally provide transportation.



Ladies Ball Team — 1920. L. to R.: Blanche Vandaele, Margaret Morkeberg, Esther Nelson, ?, Mary Baker, Dora Sveinson, Edith Anderson, Nellie Anderson. Coach, Beuphard Baker.

EDWARD ANDERSON

"I, Edward J. Anderson farmed for a number of years in southern Alberta, then moved back to the Markerville district and took up residence on the Ben Baker place, SE20-36-2, in 1934. I farmed there until 1957 when I sold out to Harold Tebb and moved to Surrey B.C. where I retired."

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Anderson had four sons. Ewellyn farmed NE29-36-2 before moving to Calgary; Harold farmed SW28-36-2 before moving to B.C.; Lawrence was employed in Calgary; Roy was killed in an accident in B.C. All four are veterans of World War II.

BEN F. BAKER

Ben Baker was born in the United States in 1858. Mrs. Baker (Emma Louise Parsons) was born in the United States in 1867. They were married in 1887 and lived in Barton County, Missouri.

A family of six children; three daughters Beulah, Meryl and Mary, two sons Beuphard and Gordon were born in Barton County. A fourth daughter Nellie was born in Canada.

The family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where Mr. Baker worked in a butcher shop. Then they rented a farm for one year.

In 1901 Mr. Baker came to Canada and filed on a homestead SE-20-36-2-W5. In 1903 the family moved up to their homestead, west of Innisfail, N.W.T. They brought with them some stock, implements and household effects.

The first years on the farm were hard. Money was scarce and jobs were few, but with careful management over the years they were successful.

Mr. Baker operated a beef ring for a number of years. The farmers who belonged would take turns bringing an animal each week to be butchered. Each member got fresh beef every week.

The Bethel Ladies Aid was formed in 1903 and Mrs. Baker was treasurer for many years.

Mr. Baker passed away in 1934. Mrs. Baker and Nellie stayed on the farm until late fall when they had a sale. The farm was sold to Edward Anderson. Mrs. Baker moved to Innisfail for the winter months. Nellie was married in 1935 to Thomas Sigurdson who farmed in the Ridgewood district. Mrs. Baker who made her home with them, made several trips to the U.S.A. and spent the winter months with her daughter Mary and son Gordon. She passed away in December 1959.

BEUPHARD JAMES BAKER

Beuphard Baker was born in Barton County, Missouri on July 11, 1891.

He moved from Missouri to Nebraska with his parents, later migrating to Innisfail, N.W.T. His parents homesteaded near Markerville, in the area known as "Yankee Flats".

School was held in a small log house on the quarter section on which the Bethel church stands. These were the first classes taught in this area, beginning in 1903. About 12 pupils attended. They were supervised by Miss Mandy Anderson (Mrs. Bill Martin of Innisfail). In these early years school was held in the warmer months only, due to the cold structure of the building and the deep snow the pupils had to walk through. After his school years, Beuphard was employed by several local pioneers.

In 1910 he became employed with Frazer and Gaetz of Rocky Mountain House, hauling supplies from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House with a four-horse-team and wagon. Later he freighted supplies from Rocky to the Nordegg coal mines.

In 1910 he bought NW-17-36-2-W5 from Mrs. Jermy. This quarter was C.P.R. land originally, then owned by H. Mustard who sold it to the Jermy family.

In the summer of 1911, Beuphard and Bob Wilson of Markerville took a contract to clear and break 300 acres of virgin land in the Knee Hill Valley district for C.P.R. ready made farms.

For a number of years Beuphard lived on his farm and worked out, breaking sod for several people. In the early 1920s he purchased the adjoining SW-20-36-2-W5.

Beuphard decided to settle down and in 1925, he and Esther Nelson were married in Innisfail.

When the Bethel church was being built in 1927, Beuphard was on a committee for collecting funds for the building. Much of the work was donated.

Esther was a member of the Bethel Ladies Aid joining in 1921. Over the years Beuphard served on various boards - Bethel church, Heckla school, Markerville-Dickson Mutual Telephone, and later the Markerville Curling Club.

Recreation in the early years consisted mainly of skating on the rivers and lakes, dancing and picnicking. Ball games were very popular, even the girls had a team. Visiting was done with horses hitched to wagons in summer, and to bob sleighs in winter. Later, buggies and cutters came into use.

Three girls and one boy were born in this family.

Alyce passed away at fourteen years of age. Edna married Norman Wallebeck. They live in Edmonton and have two children, Alyce and Brian. Darwin lives on the home farm. Darlene passed away at the age of two years.

In 1960 Beuphard and Esther decided to retire from the farm and purchased a house in Spruce View.

DARWIN BAKER

Darwin attended school at Heckla and high school at Dickson. He then spent two years at the Calgary Technical school before going into partnership with his Dad on the farm. When his parents retired to Spruce View, Darwin took over the farm.

He married Marguerite Armitstead who had been teaching at Dickson. They have four children Patricia, Beverley, Darel and Carolyn.

JOHANN AND VILBORG BJARNASON AND FAMILY

In the year 1900 Johann Bjarnason took leave of his wife and two children, Ingvar and Agusta and left Iceland to try and find a better life in North America. He came directly to the Red Deer area where some of his countrymen had settled a few years before.

The first two years he found work in the Burnt Lake area and worked in logging camps on Sheep Creek, south of Calgary.

His wife, Vilborg Aaronsdottir, left her homeland in 1901 to join her husband in America. Now with a third child, a babe in arms, she left the two older children with foster parents, and with her baby set out on the long journey into the unknown. The oldest child a girl (Agusta) who was just five years old can still recall seeing her mother walk onto the boat.

It was a long journey to Canada by boat taking anywhere from three to five weeks, and the trip from the east coast to Red Deer was an ordeal for people who could neither speak or understand the English language. As was the case with most immigrants it was the children who suffered the most casualties, many dying from various causes. Mrs. Bjarnason lost her son, Axel, enroute and he was buried in Winnipeg. Her first year in Canada she lived at Burnt Lake and Tindastoll.

In 1902 they chose NW of 10-36-2-5 as their homestead, built a log house and moved in during the summer. The land was cleared with an axe, the first acres plowed with a walking plow. It was a big step forward when, some fifteen years later, a single bottom sulky (riding) plow was acquired. The help of a neighbor was required to assemble a machine of this magnitude. As the family grew additions were built on the house. In 1913 a 20 x 20 two-storey house was built, and this was the nucleus of the house that stands on the homestead today.

Mrs. Bjarnason was alone a great deal of the time as her husband worked in the fields and away from home. She said she was more afraid of the drunken white men than of the roving bands of Indians who often travelled right past the door. Another great fear of the homesteaders was the prairie fire and for many years a partly dug well was the place chosen to put the children, in case of an emergency. They told of the time when two men rode along a ridge throwing burning matches into dry grass for no other reason than to start a fire.

Agusta (Mrs. Haldorsson) and Ingvar remained in Iceland, where they grew up, married and had families of their own.

In 1967 they came to Canada to visit their brothers and sisters. Sisters Laura and Inga have been to Iceland. In time other children, came into the family of Johann and Vilborg. They are, Mundi, Inga, Svanna (Mrs. Campbell) Margaret, Albert and George, Calgary; Violet (Mrs. McLellan) of Victoria;



J. Bjarnason.

Laura (Mrs. Christensen) of Olds; and Finna (Mrs. Olesen), Barney and Ellent of Heckla. The Heckla school was built on the north-west corner of their homestead.

Johann and Vilborg were exceedingly honest and modest people, a trait which they passed on to all their children. Johann passed away in 1953 and Vilborg in 1946. Both are buried in the Tindastoll cemetery.

Ellent, better known as "Chunny", took over the homestead and is the second owner in seventy-two years. His sister Finna, now widowed, lives with him. Ellent is an active member of the Square Dance Club, the local curling clubs and is presently a director of the Co-op Store.

Barney farms NW 8-36-2-W5 in Heckla. He married Agnes Atkinson of Big Bend and they have two children. Beverley (Mrs. Rollans) has four children and lives in Calgary. Deanna (Mrs. Fisher) has three children and lives in Lacombe. Barney has served on numerous committees in support of community projects. Both he and Agnes are ardent curlers.

THE DAVID BJARNASON FAMILY

David, the fourth and youngest son of Mundi Bjarnason and Annie Atkinson was born in Red Deer. Owing to the death of his mother he was raised by his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. George Atkinson of Big Bend.

In 1957 he married Edna, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Leighton of Knee Hill Valley. The couple lived in Markerville and Raven before settling in the Heckla District in 1960. It was while they were in Markerville that David bought his first truck and went into business for himself.

They now have a well-established trucking business, as well as a hog buying station at Spruce View.

David and Edna have five daughters, Jolene, Rosalie, Cheryl and twins, Lois and Loretta. Their first child, Wendy Lynne, died in 1958 at the age of 6 months.

AXEL L. BRINK

Axel L. Brink was born in Fur, Denmark in 1905. He came to Canada in 1928 and was employed by Peter Thompson of Heckla until 1931 when he purchased NE-17-36-2-W5 from Peter Thompson.

He farmed and batched until 1943, when he married Alice Morck of Dickson.

Axel and Alice have three sons, Harvey, Colin and Kenneth.

The family are members of the Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson.

Axel has served on numerous boards and committees to promote local projects including the Heckla school, Spruce View Co-op, Telephone Company, Rural Electrification. He has been President of the Bethany Lutheran Congregation and Superintendent of Heckla and Dickson Sunday Schools.

NORMAN CHAPUT FAMILY

Norman, Barbara and son Robbie moved to this area after purchasing the home of Dave McGraw in 1970. Norm taught in Innisfail, later transferring to Spruce View. Barbara taught at Spruce View until son, Matthew, was born.

After moving to this area, it was discovered that during the twenties Barbara's great grandmother, Mrs. Mary Turner, her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Nichols and her mother lived on the Whitcomb place in the Craig community. Barb's father J. Ham's, homesteaded around Ricinus.

THOMAS E. DAVIS

Thomas E. Davis was born in Nebraska, October 5, 1888. He came to Carstairs, Alberta by immigrant train in 1905. Immigrant cars had slat seats and everyone was required to bring his own food, bedding, etc. It took about a week to make the trip.

In 1911 he moved to Acme, Alberta.

Miss Ella Petersen was born in Iowa in 1892. She came to Acme, Alberta and in 1912 she married Thomas E. Davis.

They moved to the Oklahoma district in 1935 and to Heckla in 1942. They came over on the ice of the Red Deer river, which made only a two-mile move to the farm, SW-13-36-2-W5.

Nearest neighbors at that time were Bill Brown, the Goodmansons and the Gillie Bjornsons.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are members of the United Church. Mrs. Davis worked hard for the church and school. She was President of the Bethel Ladies Aid.

They had five children, all born at Acme.

Orville at Markerville; Ellwood, Innisfail; Ralph, Ruby (Lewis), and Bruce all of Calgary.

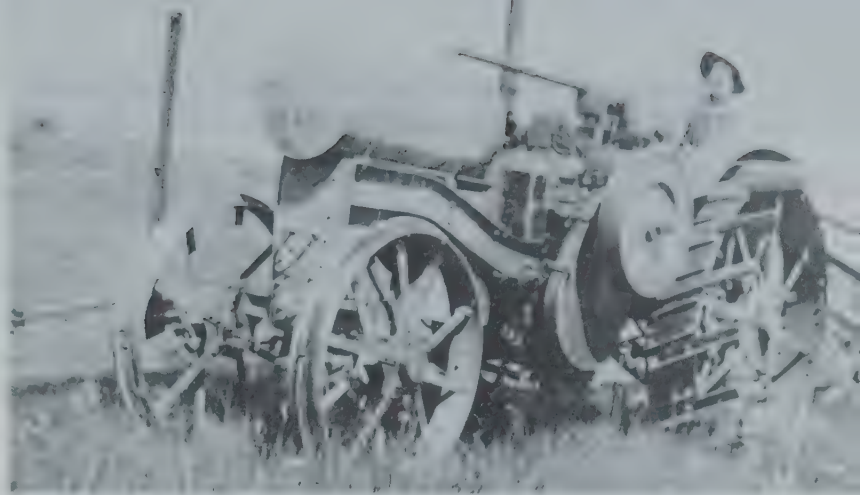
Bruce attended school at Markerville. The rest went to school at Acme.

In 1950 they rented the farm to Glen Walker, and moved to Innisfail. In 1958 the farm was sold to Stanley Johannson.

HOMER DE LONG

Homer and Ella De Long and family arrived in Innisfail from Osceola, Iowa, March 13, 1913. Arriving on an immigration train, which also carried all their worldly goods, consisting of horses, chickens, machinery and household effects. They purchased five quarters of bush land, with just a small house, situated on NW 20-36-2-5 which had been the home quarter of Mike Sweeney.

In the twenties their sons Arlie, Virgil and Lee, with their father cleared the land using a homemade



Virgil DeLong with Titan Tractor — 1921.

brushcutter after which came many months of picking stumps and ploughing. The first breaking was done with a Rumley Oil tractor owned by Charlie Montieth of Craig. Homer was an ardent hunter and always got his "game", hunting was a real challenge. Ella De Long's house was open to every passerby with a hearty "homecooked" meal and a warm welcome.

Homer passed away Sept. 1939. Age 66. Ella passed away in Dec. 1951 at the age of 80. Mrs. De Long had been an active member of the Bethel Ladies' Aid.

Audrey married Chester Lewis in 1927. They had one daughter Betty, (Mrs. Edward Hart) of Vauxhall whose family consists of: Gerry, Wayne, Trudy, and Kenneth. Chester passed away in 1930. In 1939 Audrey married Angus Cruickshank. Their family consists of three boys: Glen, Bob and Mitchell (all in the Spruce View area).

Virgil married May Owens in 1933. The couple settled on NE 21-36-2-W5. They had three children: Ronnie, Barbara, and Shirly. Virgil passed away in 1943.

Arlie passed away in 1957. Leland now resides on the home farm.

A. CRUICKSHANK

Angus Cruickshank came to this district in 1937, from Provost, Alberta. He was born in London, Ontario and came west as a boy with his parents who homesteaded at Outlook, Sask. He married here and settled on SW 21-36-2-5.

RAYMOND FLEISCHHACKER

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fleischhacker and family came to the district in 1965 when they purchased Sec. 15-36-2-W5 from Mike and Joe Gabas. Both Ray and Rose were born in Saskatchewan and married at Muenster, Saskatchewan in 1953. They have five daughters, Diane, Debbie, Mary, Karan and Fredia, and one son Eric. The children attend school at Spruce View. They are members of the Roman Catholic church and Rose is a member of the Markerville 3-Point W.I.

WILLIAM FOUNTAIN

William (Bill) Fountain was born in Oklahoma U.S.A. in 1900. He came to the Dickson area in 1925 and stayed with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and

Mrs. P.B. Hendrickson. While here, he met and married Hanna Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. Thompson.

Hanna was born in 1903 on the farm that was homesteaded by her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Nordal. This farm now belongs to Clare Lougheed. Hanna attended school at Heckla.

Bill and Hanna lived away from the district until 1939 when they moved into the house on the Milo Norman farm. In 1941 they rented the Benedictson homestead from John Nelson and in 1948 purchased the farm NE4-36-2-W5.

They sold the farm in 1963 to Olsen Bros. and moved to Calgary. Bill passed away in June 1972 and Hanna still resides in Calgary.

Bill was a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, Hanna was a member of Bethel Ladies Aid.

They had four children, Gordon was born in Detroit, Michigan. He passed away in 1940 at the age of thirteen years. James passed away in 1945 at age sixteen. Cosimo was born at Evarts and passed away in 1955 at age twenty-four years. Margaret (Mrs. Cyril Anderson) lives in Calgary and has two children. Margaret was a member of the local Tip Top Teeners, Garden and Sewing Club.

THE GILLIS BROTHERS by William Olsen

A couple of years after World War I two men came to the Dickson district from around Lethbridge. They were brothers and bachelors, Robert and Sidney.

They were born in Nova Scotia and emigrated to the West in their younger days. They homesteaded around Walsh, a hamlet close to Medicine Hat. The brothers horse ranched and raised fine Belgian horses.

Sydney, the most energetic of the two, bought cattle for Pat Burns and sheep from Montana. One winter he came to Innisfail where he met an old Norwegian by the name of Nash who took him out to this district. He liked what he saw so he bought the SW4-36-2-5. There were about forty acres broken, they broke 100 acres more. They were both over 50 years old. They were good workers and had fine horses. They built all the buildings. They took their time to do so. They did not believe in going into debt.

Things went good. They bought SE5-36-2-5 and broke 25 acres.

Robert took a stroke and died. Sydney sold out and lived in Innisfail. Both are buried in Lethbridge.

They were fine fellows - good workers.

Robert was quite religious, absolutely not Catholic. He thought the church in Dickson was too close to Catholic. "Too much Pope! Too much Pope!"

Sydney bought a fine Dodge car when he was over 80, never became expert to drive but the police said considering his age he was real good. "The only good thing ever said about me," said Sydney. He did not like the police, you can be sure. "When a few fellows came together to have a good time, a cop shall come and put his nose in." I don't think he ever had any trouble with the law. He was a good, law-abiding citizen and a good neighbour - and that goes for both of them.

GOODMANSON by Mrs. Olive Goodmanson

Gudmunder Goodmanson was born in Bjork, Iceland in 1877 and I Olive Nordal was born in Baldur, Manitoba in 1890.

We were married in 1912 and farmed the half Section 14-36-2-W5 in the Heckla district. We attended the Lutheran Church in Markerville. The Pastor was Rev. P. Hjalmsen. Our nearest neighbors were the Nelson Bros. and the Eiriksons. My husband passed away in October 1955.

We had a family of one son and four daughters, all born here in the old farm house with no doctor in attendance.

Johnny married Irene Chitwood and they farmed in the Tindastoll district. They now live in Markerville. Their two daughters are both married, Louise in Calgary, and Margaret in Innisfail.

Margaret married Ralph Davis and they had two children, Ray and Marion. Both are married and live in B.C. Margaret passed away in 1958.

Lena married George Atkinson and they live in Innisfail. They had three children, Douglas (killed in an accident), Donna of Innisfail, and Vera in Ontario.

Rose married Lawrence Field of Innisfail. They have two children, Larry of Calgary and Sylvia, married and living in Ontario.

Violet married Tim Kerslake and they have twelve children, Kenneth, James, Mundie, Pat, Betty, Alice, Olive, Sandra, Debra, Susan, Dale and Brenda. All live in B.C.

We sold the farm in 1946 to M.A. Walker and I now live in Innisfail.

THE P.B. HENDRICKSON FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. P.B. (Jack) Hendrickson arrived in Innisfail from Caspar, Wyoming on March 22, 1922. With them were their two small sons, Claude, and Alfred. Their daughter, Alma was born after their arrival at Dickson.

They moved onto their farm NW33-35-2-WS and lived in a small one room log cabin. This home was later replaced by a larger log house. Both of these buildings are still intact and in use today.

In the beginning, Jack farmed in partnership with Bill Wilson, who owned and operated a water well drill. Together they ran the drill rig throughout the area until 1927. It was powered with a Waterloo-Buoy tractor which was also used to move the outfit from farm to farm. Much of the time, the partners took cattle in payment for the drilling. The first car the Hendricksons owned was a Model T Ford made into a pick-up.

In 1944, Claude went into business with his father. They bought another well drill which Claude and his nephew Harvey still operate from the home farm.

Jack Hendrickson died in 1954. The farm is still operated by Claude and Harvey.

Claude and his wife Mary have three daughters, all married. Bernice, Mrs. Tom Willsie, lives west of Bowden and has four children. Ruth, (Mrs. John Lemke), see Lemke. Jackie, Mrs. Armond Goldeye, has one son and lives in Red Deer.

Alfred is married and lives in the U.S.A. He has two children, Gail, (Mrs. Howard Robertson), who is a registered nurse and now lives at Slave Lake. Harvey farms as stated.

Alma is Mrs. Ivan Rhodes (see Ivan Rhodes family.)

STANLEY JOHANNSSON (see J.K. Johannsson-Hola)

Stanley, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Johannsson grew up in the Hola district. He married Helen Liivam of Eckville and they live on SW-13-36-2-W5. They have four children Terry, Wesley, Wendy and Darren.

CHRIS LARSEN FAMILY by their granddaughter - age 10

In 1910 Chris Larsen came from Denmark at the age of 14 to join his father in America. He served in the U.S. Navy for two years. He then did as all sailors do, found a girl. In 1920 he married the former Agnetta Andersen and settled at Ruskin, Nebraska. He emigrated to Canada in 1928 and came immediately to the Dickson area. He purchased land, the NE33-35-2-5 in the Heckla District. He rented numerous homes in the Dickson area while clearing his own land. He drove to his property with his team and family every day to clear his land with an axe. Later, he built on this land and is still residing there.

He has been an active member of Bethany Lutheran Church ever since coming to the community and has served on the church council for 15 years.

He has a family of three, Inger, resides in Edmonton. Calvin married Ebba Larsen of Camrose and resides at Spruce View with his family of six children, Linda, Donald, Grant, Howard, twins Diane and Darlene. Ellen married Hartvig Christensen and resides at the former Vilhelm Christensen farm at Dickson. They have two children, Wendy and Lorne.

INGVAR LARSEN

Andrew Ingvar Larsen was born in Denmark in 1882. He arrived in Calgary in 1904 where he became associated with a builder, Ed Hansen. His main job was the cement work, and he was soon taught to mix cement one to ten instead of one to five. He purchased several lots in Calgary, some of which were in the middle of a lake. These lots he traded for his farm across from the Heckla school. This land, NE9-36-2-W5, belonged to a land speculator, Jens Rasmussen of Standard.

Ingvar moved to his farm in 1912 where he farmed until retiring in 1954. He married Christina Gundersen, eldest daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J.C. Gundersen of Dickson. They had two children, Violet and Ewald.

Violet attended University in Edmonton and graduated as a medical doctor. She practised medicine in Leader, Saskatchewan from 1940 to 1963 when she and her husband, Lorenz Lung, retired and moved to the Dickson district. Violet passed away in 1969.

Ewald married Sylvia Matson of Craig and they farm near Benalto. They have two sons, Kenneth and Ronald.

THE J.C. LOUGHEED FAMILY

Clare Lougheed was born in Alsask, Sask. later moving with his parents to Red Deer, Alta. into the Willowdale District in 1944. While here, he married Mary J. Lowis of Coronation.

The two eldest children, James and Hazel were born in Red Deer. In 1951 we moved to the Heckla district to land location W1/2-11-36-2 and E1/2-10-36-2 which was owned by Dr. M.L. Stauffer of California.

We farmed there for 10 years. Then in 1960 we bought the farm owned by M.A. Walker.

John and David were born here. Jim took 2 years of university and has since been working at road construction at copper mines in B.C. besides touring throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Hazel has been employed in Calgary and Burnaby, B.C.

David and John are at home.

THE J.C. MARSHALL FAMILY

John (Jack) Marshall, son of Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Marshall, grew up in the Clarendon district, east of Innisfail.

He took a course in accounting at Saskatoon and was employed by Loughlin Service, and Canada Packers.

He married Marilyn Thompson, and the following year purchased the Thompson home farm from his father-in-law, Peter Thompson, where he, with his family, resides. The Marshalls had a family of four: Myles, Mark (deceased), Lisa, and Monica.

Jack and Marilyn are active in their respective branches of the Jaycees. Jack served on the local telephone board; is presently a director on the Innisfail Hospital Board, and the Spruce View Fire Protection Co-op. He is also on the Church board and the Cub group committee. Marilyn belonged to the Bethel Ladies Aid, is a W.I. member and a member of the hospital auxiliary. She does some relief nursing. They attend the United Church. The Marshalls and their children are the third and fourth generations to live on the old home farm.

THE DAVID MCGRAW FAMILY

The McGraw family moved to Heckla from Red Deer in 1962, having purchased from P.A. Thompson his acreage on Sec. 17.

Their two youngest children, Theresa and Bill, were with them. David Jr. was at university in Saskatoon, and Margaret, (Mrs. James Shortt) was living in Red Deer. Margaret had graduated from the Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing.

David Sr. had served with the R.C.A.F. during World War II. Upon his discharge he became a livestock buyer.

Mrs. McGraw, a registered nurse, trained in Ontario. She nursed in Calgary, Red Deer and Innisfail and is currently nurse-in-residence at the Bowden Institute.

All four children are now married with families. In 1970 the McGraws sold their property to Norman and Barbara Chaput.

HERSCHEL MOYER

Herschel Moyer was born in Waterloo, Ontario in 1892. He came west with his parents and eight brothers and sisters in 1906 and lived at Didsbury for four years. In 1910 he took up a homestead in Alberta near Alsask, Sask. In 1915 he moved across into Sask. where he farmed until 1936.

In 1920 he married Gladys Evans who was born in Eugene, Oregon. They had two daughters Verna (Mrs. Don McTavish of Sherwood Park, Alberta) and Norma (Mrs. Allan Sveinson of Innisfail).

All are members of the United Church.

In 1936 Herschel moved with his family to a rented farm "The Hal Craig place" near Big Bend and lived there six years. They then rented the Nelson Bros. farm which had been purchased at that time by Dr. M. Stauffer of Pittsburg, California.

In 1948 Herschel purchased his own farm "Melody Meadows" near Innisfail on which he is now retired. The farm is now owned by son-in-law, Allan Sveinson.

MUSTARD FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Mustard came to Yankee Flats in 1902 from Nebraska. They lived for a time at a sawmill at the Red Deer River crossing while a house was being built for them on SW-20-36-2-W5.

The Mustards sold out to Ben Baker and moved to Jasper Park in the early twenties. Mrs. Mustard died in 1922.

Mr. Mustard loved hunting and trapping. He operated a guiding and outfitting business in Jasper and Mountain Park with two sons, Ray and William. Mr. Mustard died in the early thirties.

There were six children in the family, Clara (Mrs. Sid Keeler), Ada (Mrs. W.O. Berry), Bessie (Mrs. Clarence Rhodes), Edith (Mrs. Louis Major) all now deceased, Bill of Seba Beach, and Ray of Lethbridge.

NELSON BROTHERS, JOHN AND NELS

John Nelson was born in Sweden in 1867. He came to the United States in the early 1890s. He attended Business College in Lincoln, Nebraska where he took a bookkeeping course.

In 1898 he and a friend got the urge to join the Gold Rush in the Klondike. They got necessary provisions to last the trip and set off. The going was rough and they ran into many hardships getting through. They put in about three years panning gold and made good.

In 1902 John decided to come to Canada to seek land and came to Innisfail, N.W.T. He purchased Sec. 15-36-2-W5, built a one roomed house, made it liveable, and then sent word to his brother Nels, who lived in Leadville, Colorado, to join him.

Nels Nelson was born in Sweden. He and his wife-to-be, Christina Sondell, also born in Sweden, came to Axtel, Nebraska in 1895. They worked there for a year before moving to Leadville, Colorado. They were married in 1896. Nels worked in the coal mines until leaving for Canada.

Nels and Christina had two children, Elmer born 1897 and Esther in 1901.

In July 1903 Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nelson and family moved to Canada to join brother John. These two brothers farmed together successfully and formed a partnership under the name of Nelson Bros.

In 1904 the Heckla School was built one mile west of Nelson Bros. farm. John Nelson was Sec.-Treas. for this school for many years.

In the early years the J. Nordal family were the Nelsons' closest neighbors. Roads were not good and people from the west country going to and from Innisfail, would get stuck even driving horses. They would walk to the farm home and John or Nels Nelson would take their team and help them out. This could happen day or night. The farm home was a stopping place for numerous travellers.

Entertainment was in the form of picnics, the odd social evening at the school, and visiting neighbors.

Nelson Bros. farmed successfully until the year 1941 when they sold the farm to Mel Stauffer of California. In 1942 they had a sale and moved to a house built on land purchased from B.J. Baker. Mrs. Baker was the former Esther Nelson.

Elmer Nelson passed away in 1934, John Nelson in 1948 and Nels Nelson in 1949. Mrs. Nelson then made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Baker until her passing in 1956.

OLIVER NELSON FAMILY

Oliver Nelson born in Scott, Sask. and came in 1962 to teach at Spruce View School where, since 1969, upon earning his B. Ed. degree, he has been vice-principal. He married Donna Johansson who graduated from the General Hospital School of Nursing. Donna's interests were church, 4H work and sports. While still a student she won two trips to Eastern Canada; one through 4H club competition and one a Rotary essay-speaking contest. Twice she represented the Dickson Luther League in the U.S.A.

In 1967, the Nelsons bought the Heckla School acreage where they reside in the now converted school which in 1940, her father and grandfather built.

Both are members of the Lutheran Church and have served in executive positions. Both are active in community affairs participating in 4H Club work and local recreation and hall boards.

They have two children, Derek and Jocelyn.

NORDAL by Mrs. Olive Goodmanson

My parents were Jon Johanneson and Olaf Benediktsdotter Nordal. They were both born in Iceland. Jon Nordal was born in 1841 and passed away in 1917. Olaf Nordal was born in 1849 and passed away in 1917.

They came to America in 1883 and took a homestead at Baldur, Manitoba. In the spring of 1901 they sold their farm and moved to Markerville and took their second homestead there, SW-14-36-2.

There were six children in the family, four girls and two boys, all of whom have passed away except myself.



Mr. and Mrs. John Nordal and Grandson, John Goodmanson.

MERYL M. NORMAN (nee Strong)

I, Meryl M. Strong was born in England in 1886 and came to Alberta in 1911. I attended Normal School in Calgary.

In March 1912 I came to teach at the Heckla school. I came out from Innisfail to Markerville by stage, where I was met by the Bakers with whom I was to board.

I drove to school with the two Baker girls, Nellie and Mary. It was quite an achievement getting to school in those days, trying to get through mud and water and often having to stop to fix something that would give way on the buggy. My most thrilling experience was having to ride horseback to school. Never having been on a horse, you can guess what I went through. By the way, that horse "Old Blue" appeared to me to be six feet high.

I can remember one time when I stayed at that corner house which was a stop-over. When I got up in the morning, a doctor was there, asleep in a fur coat. He had had to stop for the night.

There was no school the first three months of the year. I had about sixteen pupils from Grade one up. I would love to hear from any of my former pupils if they should care to write.

I taught at Heckla for three years and was married to Milo Scott Norman, SE4-36-2-W5 in December, 1914 in Calgary. We lived on the farm for ten years and moved to Anacortes, Wash. in 1924 with our daughter Phyllis who was six years old. It was certainly ten years of pioneering as we had to haul water and of course, there was no electricity. So many difficulties were experienced getting to town or even to church.

One thing I will never forget. We lost one of our cows and after a long search, found her wedged between two trees down by the river.

Mrs. Meryl Norman

OLSEN BROTHERS

I, William Olsen, was born in Denmark in 1888, and came to Canada by C.P.R. steamship in April 1913, then by train to Innisfail.

I will confine my observations to Section 4 since I still live on NW4-36-2-W5. I bought the land in 1918 from Jens Rasmussen of Standard, Alberta. It was homesteaded by Warner Coffin, a U.S.A. citizen.

SW4 was homesteaded by Clarence Norman who sold to the Gillis Brothers and then to my brother, Robert Olsen, the present owner. SE4 was homesteaded by Milo Norman, who sold to Bill Fountain, then to Chris Larsen, the present owner. NE4 was homesteaded by Sam Benediktson, then sold to his stepson, Siggi. It next became the property of John Nelson who then sold to Bill Fountain. In 1963 it was bought by Robert Olsen.

When I came, there was very little land under cultivation. Roads were mere trails which snaked around to the high places. Road work was done by the use of horses and scrapers, which put more dirt in the mud holes and then all you could do was pray for dry weather. We usually had lots of rain and sometimes a real good hailstorm. In 1918 some tractors were purchased, mostly Titan and Rumley on steel wheels.

Mosquitoes were terrible in the early days especially when one was milking the cows in the evening. Money was hard to come by, and if it hadn't been for the cream cheques, there would have been none.

The only recreation was dances and picnics but most of the time, it was work and more work.

The first car was bought by Nelson Brothers in 1916, a Model T Ford but there were many months in the year when it could not be used.

CHRIS PEDERSEN

In 1928 the Chris Pedersen family, immigrants from Denmark, bought SW-17-36-2-W5 from a Doctor Alexander in the United States. Doctor Alexander had purchased it as an investment from the C.P.R.

Before the Pedersens' time no one had wanted this quarter section because it was overgrown with big heavy willows and was considered impossible to bring under cultivation. The neighbors dreaded having their cattle stray on to this land as the willows were so thick that it was impossible to ride through them on a saddle horse.

The Pedersen family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen, a son Ted, and a daughter Meta.

With lots of hard work they managed to get most of the land cleared and under cultivation. They built a small house and barn.

In the fall of 1936, they sold the farm to Neils Thesberg, and moved to the west coast where they bought a fishing boat hoping that fishing would be an easier life than farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen have both passed away. Ted went back to Denmark where he married and still lives. Meta married and, lives in B.C.

JAY ERWIN REESER

Jay Reeser and Jay's uncle Edward Knappe arrived in Innisfail on October 27, 1927. Jay had with him his family; wife Rena and three children, Muriel, Wain and Clifford. Both Jay and Rena previously had been employed in Calgary.

Jay was born in Wash. and homesteaded in Montana where the three older children were born. Rena was born in Canada but spent part of her life in Washington.

Their destination was the Thos A. Ross farm located SE16-36-2-5.

Edward Knap's retirement to the farm was very short as he passed away the following spring. He was a link with the History of Calgary as he built the Calgary City Hall, and many of the first large buildings in Calgary.

They remained there for 33 years when Jay's health failed and he later passed away in 1964 in Red Deer. He sold to Howard Thompson, present owner.

After moving to the district, Mrs. Reeser kept very busy for many years as a hair dresser. Many ladies came from Markerville and Dickson areas to get their hair marcelled.

It was not an uncommon sight to see Rena riding her horse to Markerville on the day of a dance to marcel hair in the living quarters of Bill Johnson's store until dance time. She took her beauty shop right along with her, curling irons and a little alcohol burning stove.

The Reeser home was often used by men freighting from Innisfail to Raven and Caroline with horses as a stopping point, often arriving at night knowing right where to stop. Jay and the boys would help unhook and put the horses away. The kitchen was often to be found piled with perishable goods bound for stores in the west which were reloaded in the morning, and covered against the weather.

They had three more children, Dorothy, Bill and Vera.

Muriel married Harold Tebb and in 1946 took over NW14-16-36-2-5. They have one son.

Both Wain and Clifford went back to the U.S. where they had been born and went into the service there. Wain lived in San Diego until 1962 when he was killed in a car accident; he left 2 daughters. Clifford married the former Zelma Nicholson who passed away in 1961. He has 2 boys and 2 girls, and all his family live in Seattle.

Dorothy married Glen Walker, see Walker. Bill and Olga (Osada), 3 daughters* and 1 son, live in Red Deer. Vera and Gordon Wells, 3 sons and 1 daughter are in Ft. St. John, B.C.

Mrs. Rena Reeser is now in the Valley Park Manor Nursing Home in Red Deer.

*In March, 1973, Wendy Lee, second daughter of Bill and Ollie was killed in a highway accident.

RHODES FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel P. Rhodes and two sons, George and Clarence, came to this area from Kansas on March 17, 1908. One son Clyde remained in the States where he died in 1959.

George returned to the U.S.A. after a few years. While here he operated a blacksmith shop and, to make ends meet, he helped Clarence custom bale hay with a horse power baler. He died in Texas in 1966.

The Sam Rhodes family lived on NW-20-36 where Harold Rhodes now lives. The land now operated by Harold and Ivan Rhodes was first owned by Mr. John Parsons. Land in Kansas owned by S.P. Rhodes was traded sight unseen for land owned in Alberta by Mr. Parsons who returned to Kansas to live.

Mr. Sam Rhodes died in 1924 and Mrs. Mary Rhodes died in 1936.

Clarence Rhodes married Bessie Mustard in 1917. They had four children, Harold, Kenneth, Ivan and Eileen.

Mrs. C. Rhodes passed away in 1950 and Clarence now makes his home in Diamond Valley district with daughter Eileen and family (Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hansen, Colleen and Colin).

Harold took over the home farm. He married Esther Olesen of Fosston, Saskatchewan and they have four daughters. Susan (Mrs. Dennis Hindbo), Terry (Mrs. Alec Willets) and Wendy and JoAnn.

Kenneth married Margaret Ryall of Winfield and they have four children. Annette (Mrs. R. Robertson), Bonnie, Robert and Dawn. Ken and Margaret operate the store in Markerville.

Ivan married Alma Hendrickson and they have five children, Garry, Myrna, Kathy, Joyce and George. They live on NE-19-36.

THOMAS ARCHIBALD ROSS

Tom Ross was born at Frizleton, Nova Scotia in Cape Breton Island in 1874. He came to Bankhead and Rossland B.C. to work in the coal mines opening up there about the turn of the century.

After a few years he left the mines and took up wheat farming at Bow Island, Alberta. However, being an avid hunter, trapper and fisherman, the prairie did not appeal to Mr. Ross so he moved to the Heckla district in 1917. He bought the old Dekkar farm, cornerwise from the Heckla school SE 16-36-2-W5, which he later sold to J.E. Resser. The Ross family then moved to NW3-36-2-W5.

J. Bjarnasons, Peter Thompson Sr. and Nelson Bros. were among those already settled nearby.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross were married in 1912 at Bow Island, after Mrs. Ross, the former Elsie Grey Cook of Fogo Island, off the northeast corner of Newfoundland, had made the long journey west. Mrs. Ross' father was an accountant and had been sent to the "New World" as an employee of one of the first dry goods stores set up by the merchandising interests in England. For many years Mr. Cook took the place of the Governor-General of Newfoundland at official functions.

Tom Ross had a son by a previous marriage. Perry S. Ross was born at Rossland B.C. and grew up in the Heckla district. He went to Vancouver Island in 1927 and became one of the first caterpillar operators on road building and logging projects. Perry had some experience in mechanics as his father had one of the first Model T cars and Rumley tractors in this area. Perry is now Councillor for the Municipal District of Saanich, Vancouver Island. He lives in Duncan, B.C.

Three of the Ross children, Evelyn, Gordon and Irvyn, were born at Bow Island. Donald, Thomas, Mary, Harry and Eugene were born after the family moved to Heckla.

Evelyn married Clifford Whitelock, now deceased, of the Little Red Deer district. They lived in Calgary, then moved to Vancouver in 1942. Gordon married

Dorothy Conn, also deceased, daughter of the late Wilbert and Mrs. Conn of Big Bend. Gordon farms and trucks east of Innisfail. Irvyn works at construction in Calgary. Donald lives on the family farm in Heckla.

Tommy joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942 and served as a mechanic until 1945. He was stationed at Edmonton, also in Ontario and Nova Scotia. He married Lois Mustard, a niece of the late Mrs. Clarence Rhodes. Lois' father lived in this district in the early years. Tommy and family live at Viking, Alberta where Tommy operates a Variety Store.

Mary worked for Burns and Co., Calgary. She married David A. Link and lives in Vancouver.

Harry married Joyce Berghaus. They live at Waterloo, Iowa where Harry is employed at the John Deere Co. factory.

Eugene joined the R.C.A.F. as a wireless operator. He was stationed at various bases across Canada from 1943 till 1946. Eugene has since worked in radio stations at Grande Prairie, Camrose, Lethbridge and presently at Chilliwack, B.C.

Mrs. Ross died in November 1945. Mr. Ross who was widely known throughout the area as a big game hunter and guide, and veterinarian, which seemed to be his true calling, lived to be eighty-six years of age. He died in Innisfail in November 1960.

CHRIS SORENSEN

Chris Sorensen came from Denmark with his parents, one sister Marie and a brother Peter. They purchased SW-13-36-2-W5, from an old man who had previously bought it from the C.P.R.

Chris Sorensen was a veteran of World War I. During the 1930s he served as councillor of Poplar Grove.

After selling the farm in 1942 to T.E. Davis they bought a farm west of Dickson and moved there. All the members of this family are deceased.

HAROLD M. TEBB

In the spring of 1946 Harold M. and Muriel E. Tebb moved to NW16-36-2-W5. This quarter of land was part of her father's farm. Muriel (better known as Merle) was the former Muriel Reeser.

As there were no buildings on the land, they had to start in a small way. The very first building was built according to blue prints. It was four feet by four feet, made from lumber, door etc. from the old Reeser-Ross House. It was built at the Reesers' and hauled up to the Tebbs' land.

Said Jay, being helpful as usual "You'll need a square, nails and a compass". "No compass," said Harold, "I'll use my dinner plate." This same House of Parliament still stands, though it has been upset many times over the years.

Then came a two-roomed house and a small barn. The rest has been added, to make it as it is today.

Harold and Merle moved here from Cremona where they farmed a short while. Before that they lived in Calgary where Harold was employed as a machinist at Ogden Shops in Munitions until the end of the war.

In 1953 Allan Adair joined them on the farm. They later bought SE20-36-2-W5 from Ed. Andersen.

NEILS THESBERG

Neils Thesberg was born in Denmark in 1906 and came to Canada in 1927. He first worked on a farm at Cutknife, Saskatchewan, then came to Alberta where he worked several years in Southern Alberta on ranches, in lumber mills and also at the Turner Valley Oilfields.

During those years he took time out to become more proficient in the English language by attending Dana School in Calgary for one winter and the newly-organized Dickson High School for one year.

In 1936 he bought the Chris Pedersen farm in the Heckla district SW15-36-2-W5.

He married Esther Morck of Dickson in 1940. Through the years they built up a herd of Holstein cattle and in 1947 built a dairy barn. For several years they operated a milk route in the Dickson and Spruce View areas. The cattle have recently been sold due to Neils' ill health.

They are members of the Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson. For a number of years they taught and attended Sunday School Classes at Heckla. They have always been interested in educational and community affairs.

There are four children, Anne, Norman, Sharon and Axel.

Anne married Charles Lane and they have one daughter and one son. They reside at Oyen, where Charles is employed by the Provincial Government. Anne was a 4H member.

Norman at the age of eighteen, was employed by the Meteorological Branch of the Department of Transport. He spent some time at weather stations in the Canadian Arctic, then was sent on a special two year course to Charlton University. He is now an Accountant with the Department of Transport in Edmonton.

Sharon has her degree in Education and teaches in Hay River.

Axel attended Junior College at Camrose. He married Sharon Johnson of Edmonton and now resides in Jasper.

ARTHUR O. THOMPSON

Arthur Thompson, son of Icelandic parents, was born at Winnipeg in 1884. As a youngster he moved with them to North Dakota and later to Alberta where they settled in the Markerville district.

In 1902 he married Sarah Nordal who was born in Iceland in 1882 and who, at six months of age, came to Manitoba.

The Nordals made their home there until Sarah was about 12 years old when they moved to Heckla.

In 1904, Arthur filed on a homestead along the Red Deer River SE and SW32-35-2-W5, where he lived until 1941. During World War I he served with the Canadian Armed Forces, as did his son Andrus in World War II.

The Thompsons raised eight children Hannah,

Loa, John, Lily, Sarah, Andrus, Rooney and Christine.

With the sale of his homestead to Clifford Adamson in 1941, Arthur and his wife bought a country store in Cottonwood. Sarah (his wife) died in 1950. Mr. Thompson continued to run the store and several years later remarried.

After retiring the Thompsons spent two years at the Coast. Both are now residents of a Red Deer nursing home.

The Thompson family was musical and in the early days Hannah, John and Loa travelled about the country with their father to provide music for dances. Frequently they crossed the Red Deer River from their home rather than make the long trip around by way of the bridges, to reach their destination. Crossing on the ice was no problem but the spring floods were.

Hannah recounts an experience they had when the river was high. For this occasion she was wearing a new dress especially made, and new white shoes. Her father had a violin borrowed from a friend. The four were fearful of the crossing and justly so because the boat was swamped and capsized. People, music and instruments were thrown into the river. Hannah, who almost drowned, was rescued and the borrowed violin found washed up on the river bank some distance downstream.

THEODORE THOMPSON

Theodore Thompson, eldest son of Peter Thompson Sr. was born in Minnesota November 3, 1888. He moved with his parents to Markerville and attended school at Old HOLA. He was hired out by his Father on occasions to the Vandaele farm and the Maxson farm. He filed on a homestead in the Craig district NE4-37-3-W5. In 1906 he returned to Duluth, to continue his education, leaving his brother Bert to take over the homestead. He worked for his board, room and essential school expenses until completing his bookkeeping and business training, at which time he became bookkeeper for Duluth Iron Works. In 1911 he entered the U.S. Civil Service in the Duluth Post Office. It was during this time he joined the Y.M.C.A. and excelled in all the physical education and sports activities offered by that organization.

In 1913 he married Johannah Olufson of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In 1918 they moved with their two children Robert and Grace, to Canada, settling in the Heckla district on the NE8-36-2-W5, formerly Hudson Bay land. Mother and Dad were always active in community affairs. Dad acted as Sec-Treas. of the Heckla School District twenty years. He was a sports enthusiast, following all local and national events. This always kept him in tune with young people. One event of great interest to him was the World Series baseball games. These were held during harvest and threshing season each year. Dad would prevail on someone to take over his team for short periods so he could go in to hear snatches on the radio - returning to report the score and highlights. Mother was active in the Bethel Church and Ladies Aid Society, being President for a time. The community picnics were

always great events during the summer, June 17 Markerville, July 1st Dickson and July 4th Bethel. Mother and Dad always attended, bringing delicious "goodies" for lunch, while each of the children endeavoured to earn special treats in the races. Our home, was always open for guests - where coffee, angel food and Mother's special brown bread were served. Along with the many happy memories of good times in our home there were times of sorrow, when through illness, Grace, Arlone and George went to be with the Lord. Mother and Dad have enjoyed long life and have been happy to be a part of this district. Dad passed away September 27, 1972 and Mother continues to reside in her home. There are three sons: Robert of Langley, B.C. Howard RR1, Innisfail, Grant of Stettler.

ROBERT THOMPSON

Robert Thompson was born in Duluth, Minnesota in 1914. He was active in Boy Scouts, Innisfail, Dickson bands and all local activities. In 1933 he attended Calgary Normal School and taught Heckla School for two years after graduation. Following this, he attended Palmer College of Chiropractic, graduating in 1939. He married Hazel Kurth in 1939 and returned to Alberta, establishing a practice in Innisfail. During the war years he was Officer Commanding No. 7 Squadron Air Cadets. In 1943 he went to Ethiopia under the Sudan Interior Mission as a missionary-teacher. He was on loan from the Mission to the Ethiopian Government under the Department of Education - taking an active part in all phases of the rehabilitation work following the war years. After fifteen years he returned to Canada, at which time he became active in politics, serving as Member of Parliament for the Red Deer constituency for ten years.

During his political career, Bob headed government missions to countries in the Far East, Africa, Europe and Australia. He furthered his education at Bob Jones University where he earned a B. Sc. in Education Administration. In 1972 he was awarded an LL.D. at Wheaton College. He published three books on political and economic themes. Among other personal honours, he received the Confederation Medal in 1967.

Bob and Hazel have five sons and three daughters, Grace is married living in Red Deer. George is employed in Red Deer; Paul and Alice live in Ottawa. At present four children reside at home, in Langley, B.C.

HOWARD THOMPSON

Howard Thompson born in 1919, has cherished memories of the little one room Heckla School where all grades from one to nine studied together. Our sports activities were limited, however, using our own ingenuity we were able to skate on the Dickson Creek, ski on the banks of the Red Deer river (with homemade skis) enter ball tournaments with neighboring schools, build snow forts in winter (where we fought World War I again), and participated in school fairs and concerts. In 1938 Tommy Ross, Gisli Eirikson and I built a cabin on Miss E. Gundesen's

property, where we lived and attended High School. At the completion of the school term we started a business in Spruce View, which we called "Ternary Lumber Co." Many interesting stories can be told of this era in our lives.

It was the custom in our district for the community to have a special party for the young men on their 21st birthdays. I still treasure the wrist watch I received that evening. I joined the R.C.M. Police, receiving my training in Regina, where I obtained the Bronze and Silver medalion from the Royal Life Saving Society, also two certificates in St. John's Ambulance. I was stationed in Northern Saskatchewan. In 1943 I married Olive Oliver, whom I met in High School. We lived on the farm two years before leaving for Ethiopia. We worked with the Ethiopian Government for seven years - three years in a Practical Arts School in Southern Ethiopia and four years attached to the Ethiopian Embassy as Cultural Attache in Wash. D.C., returning in 1953, to live on the home farm. In 1956 we moved to the Vanderberg property in Spruce View, continuing the General Store, General trucking and Bulk Oil. In 1960 we moved to the Reeser Farm 4 miles east of Spruce View. We have three sons and four daughters all living in Alberta. Our 2 eldest sons and a daughter are married. Although we have had the opportunity to travel and live in other areas, our desire was always to return to our home district - as Dad would say, "Central Alberta, a great place to live." The children are Theodore (Ted), teaching school at Olds, Arlone (Mrs. P. Lenz) Raven; Heather, Daniel and Kathleen in Calgary; Arthur, farming with me, and Hjordis at home.

GRANT THOMPSON

Grant Thompson was born 1922 at Innisfail. He joined the R.C.A.F. Cadets (Penhold) but was restricted from further airforce or army service due to an eye condition. This also necessitated leaving the farm, thus he enrolled in Palmer Chiropractic College, Davenport, Iowa. He worked his way through the college years by night duty for a funeral and ambulance establishment until he graduated in 1945. He then interned in the B.J. Palmer Clinic. In May 1946 he opened a practice in Innisfail. In 1947 he opened an office in Stettler where he has served the people of the community and surrounding districts as a Chiropractor for twenty-six years. In 1951 Alma Erichson became his bride. They have two children, Keith and June. Grant is an active member of the A.C.A., the C.C.A. and the Stettler Rotary Club. He is a board member of the Stettler Baptist Church, also serving an executive capacity in the Stettler Camp of Gideon International and the Christian Service Brigade. Grant loves outdoor life, walking through the woods, fishing and hunting, often taking his Boys' Brigade Club on special "Campouts" in the woods. Grant states, "The above are but mile posts along the way. Most of the highlights have been found in the everyday living between the mile posts. Life has been good to me, Chiropractic has been good to me - and I am very thankful for the

years afforded to me to take my place in my town and community as a citizen and a chiropractor."

PETER ALBERT THOMPSON

Peter Albert Thompson, better known as "Bert", farmed for some years north of the family homestead. He was involved in various other occupations, such as mail hauling between Markerville and Innisfail, railroad and bridge building, hotel manager, and butcher shop proprietor.

In 1928, he married Elsie Ramage who came to this country from Scotland with her parents in 1927.

In 1928, Bert took up building and carpentry, and continued in this work until his death in 1968. Building had always interested him. There are many homes and farm buildings in the district, and elsewhere, which he built. He was a hard worker and enjoyed his work.

He built a home on twenty acres of land which he had bought (part of SE17-36-2-5) in 1934. He lived there with his family until 1962 when he sold this holding to David McGraw. He built another home on the Medicine River flat on the NE12-36-2-5 having purchased this land from Mr. Watt of Innisfail in 1940.

Bert was a firm supporter of the Co-op Assoc. He was one of the first board members and served on the board in one capacity or another for 25 years.

He was also a member for many years of the Knights of Pythias.

Bert retired in 1964, but was active in building and landscaping until his death. He is buried in the Tindastoll Cemetery. Mrs. Thompson still lives on the farm. They had six children: Peter(Jack) now living in Ottawa, has four children, Karen (Handbury) living in Wetaskwin has four children, Marie (Alexander) lives in Rocky Mountain House and has four children, James has six children, and lives in Edmonton. Albert lives in Rocky Mountain House and has two children. Andrew (Danny) lives in Tennessee and has two children.

MARVIN I. THOMPSON

Marvin Ingvald Thompson and his brother, Bert, hauled freight and mail between Innisfail and Markerville for a number of years and many are the stories they could tell of the cold and hardships of this venture. When Marvin and Bert were not hauling freight and mail they were farming the homestead and other land that they had acquired in the Markerville area. They also purchased one of the first Model T cars in this district and had many a wild ride over the hills in it.

Later when this partnership was dissolved, Marvin and a cousin from Duluth tried a business venture in Winnipeg. This did not prove too successful so he returned home and purchased land from his father at Heckla. He still had retained his land in the Markerville area.

In 1936, he was married to Irma B. Ceasor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Ceasor of the Stauffer district. They settled on the farm in the Heckla district SE8-36-2-W5.

One son and three daughters were born to them. Ellwood married Helen Petersen of Dickson.

Janice married Lloyd Hakl. They have three sons and reside in Houston, Texas. Laurie lives in Calgary and is at present employed by an oil company. Leanne is attending school at Spruce View.

Marvin was always interested in the community and took an active part in many projects. He was a director on the first board of the Spruce View Co-op store, a director and secretary for the Markerville Rural Electrification Association, and also served as trustee on the Heckla School Board, and the Red Deer County School Division.

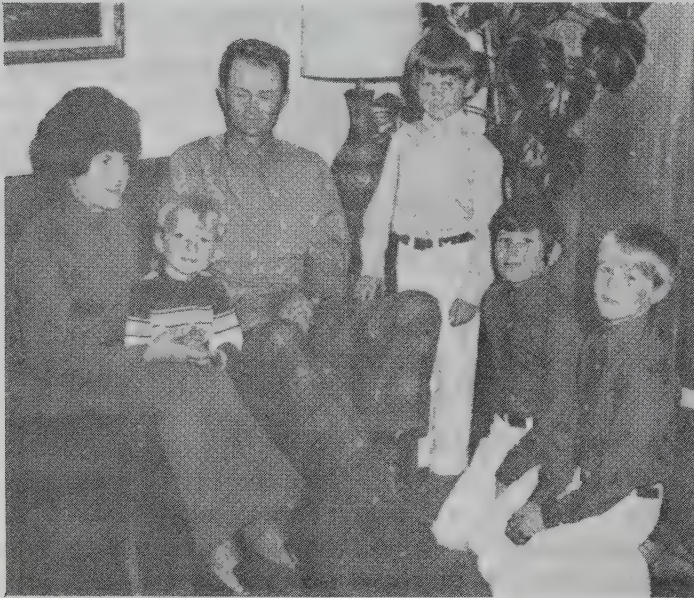
Marvin Thompson passed away in June 1960 at the age of 68 years.

His widow was remarried in 1964 to Frank A. Smith of Innisfail. They now reside on an acreage in the Medicine River flats.

THE ELLWOOD THOMPSON FAMILY

In 1959, Ellwood and his wife (nee Helen Petersen of Dickson) took over the operation of the home farm from his father, Marvin Thompson.

Ellwood was active in sports and Air Cadets. He was one of seven cadets chosen from Alberta to represent the province on an exchange trip to England. He attended Olds Agricultural College for one year.



Ellwood Thompson "Master Farm" family — 1971.

One of the greatest hindrances both Marvin and Ellwood encountered in the expansion of their hog production was the difficulty in obtaining an adequate water supply. Marvin drilled six wells and Ellwood four more, all to no avail. Ellwood approached the P.F.R.A. seeking a solution to his problem. With their help a dugout was made utilizing the Dickson Creek which runs through the farm site. This has proven very successful.

Additional farm land has been bought, the Earl Snowdon quarter, the Evelyn Petersen farm at Dickson and the Olsen Brothers farm.

They have four sons, Randy, Kelly, Darcy and Daren, all sport enthusiasts, especially interested in

hockey and skiing. They are members of Bethany Lutheran Church where Ellwood has served on the Church council and Helen in the Church Women. Helen is also a W.I. member and a 4-H Club leader.

In 1971, the Ellwood Thompsons received a Master Farm Family award - the youngest family to be so honoured.

The four boys are enthusiastic young farmers so perhaps a third generation will some day carry on the family traditions established by their father and grandfather.

PETER G. THOMPSON

In May, 1914 the Thompson family moved from the homestead at Markerville to the Heckla district settling on NW of 9-36-2-5. This farm, which became known as the "home place", was obtained by Peter Thompson Sr. in a trade with Oscar Dahlstrom for the Grondstrom homestead NW16-36-2-5. It was here that the senior Thompsons remained until their deaths, Mrs. Thompson in 1921 and her husband in 1928.

At the time of his father's death Peter Jr. purchased the home farm from the estate. He had previously cleared the east half of section 17-36-2-5 which he had bought from a Nebraska land speculator.

Peter was the first child of the family, born in Canada. He was born at home in 1903. Peter started school at age 5 in the Methodist Church at Markerville where Miss Shepherd was the teacher. Among his Grade One classmates were Carl Morkeberg and Violet Benediktson.

With the move to Heckla, Peter was responsible for starting the school fire for which he was paid 5 cents a day regardless of season or weather. During the time he went to school, one of his teachers was his sister, Ida.

Peter remained on the farm working with his father until the latter's death.

Near neighbours in the new location were the Nelson, Baker, Bjarnason and Beson families.

Peter and Thora maintained the home place. Marvin lived there but had his own farm 1/2 mile south. Each was eventually married.

Peter married Rachel (Rae) Porter in 1938. They have two children. Marilyn and Kenneth. Marilyn graduated from the Holy Cross School of Nursing in 1960. She is now Mrs. J.C. Marshall. Kenneth graduated from the Olds Agricultural College in 1962. He is currently a tradesman in the Cook Islands, South Pacific.

In 1955 Peter bought SW10-36-2-5 from William Fountain and in 1960 acquired SE10 and SW11 from Dr. Mel Stauffer. Then, in 1962, he sold the home farm to his son-in-law, Jack Marshall and, after 48 years on it, moved into a residence built on the land bought from Bill Fountain where he and Rae presently reside.

Both Peter and Rae are charter members of the Pythian Order. Peter was leader of the Markerville 4-H Grain Club during its existence, and for 25 years served on the Beef Club Senior committee. He was a director on the original board of the Co-op Store.

Rae was a member of the Bethel Ladies Aid until its demise and for several years has been associated with the Sunday School. Both are United Church members.

SOREN WESTERGAARD

Soren was born in Denmark. After finishing school he attended a Farmers' High School at which time he decided there would be more future in Canada. He emigrated in 1930.

The depression was on and jobs were scarce but Soren got a job on a dairy farm in B.C. for the summer, then came back to Didsbury and worked on a farm for two years. He went to Kevisville where he took up land. In 1936 he got a job working for C.M. Hummer, near Markerville. As Mr. Hummer's health began to fail, he rented and later sold his farm to Soren. It consisted of a half section 16-36-2-W5 the home quarter, and SW9-36-2-W5. Soren has since bought SE21-36-2-W5 from the De Long family.

Soren had made regular visits to Denmark and in 1950 he returned with his new bride, the former Viola Larsen, whom he had married in Laurbjerg, Denmark. Viola recalls that the trip over by boat took a long twelve days. Upon their arrival in New York, Soren went to get their luggage through Customs and for a short while Viola was alone, and feeling very strange in her new surroundings. The thought did occur to her that perhaps she should have listened to her father who was very apprehensive about his daughter going to Canada. Each time Soren had returned to his native land, Mr. Larsen hoped it was because Soren had sold his Canadian farm and was back to stay.

Many and varied were the experiences encountered by Viola those first years in learning to adjust to a new country but her keen sense of humor helped to carry her over the rough spots. She had read and heard stories of the fierce American Indians so when one day an Indian appeared at her door, she slammed the door and ran to the bedroom closet. When brave enough to come out she saw the Indian walking slowly down the road.

Soren and Viola have two children, Marianne and Kim. Marianne is attending college in Red Deer and Kim attends Spruce View School. The family have returned to Denmark twice to visit their relatives and friends. They are members of the Dickson Lutheran Church.

NE16-36-2-W5, Soren's home quarter, was homesteaded by John Sweeny. Ed Anderson bought it in 1915 and erected the first buildings on it. He sold it about 1918 to a French family called Madore from Bow Island who, in turn sold it in 1919 to Mr. Oscar Matson. The Hummers purchased it about two years later and sold it to the present owner.

The Hummers moved to California in 1947. Mr. Hummer died in 1951. Mrs. Hummer is now also deceased. They have one son, Clinton, who is married and lives in California.

THE M.A. WALKER FAMILY

The Meredith A. (Merry) Walker family moved into the Heckla district from Alsask, Saskatchewan in

1946, after having purchased SW SE14-36-2-W5 from W. Goodmanson.

Merry, born in Ontario in 1897, had emigrated to Alsask with his parents in 1911, where his father opened the first Post Office. Merry worked with his father in both the post office and on the farm.

Irene Johnson, was born in Michigan in 1903 and came with her family to farm in Oyen. The farm provided lots of fun and excitement for the Johnson children who until now had been "city kids."

In 1925 Merry and Irene were married and lived on Merry's homestead for nine years after which they moved into Alsask where Merry was assistant postmaster.

The family members were all involved in community activities including church, 4H clubs, and curling. Irene was a member of the Bethel Ladies' Aid and is a Pythian Sister. Merry was an elder in the church and on the Curling Club executive.

The farm was sold to J.C. Lougheed in 1959. Merry and Irene moved to Innisfail to live. Both became involved in church work. Merry was caretaker at the Innisfail Golf Course for two years and then became Sec.-Treas. of the Feeders' Association until he retired in 1969.

Their five children all born in Alsask are Glen of the Craig district; Myrtle (Mrs. C.H. Uhlmann) earned her R.N. from the General Hospital, Calgary, lives in California and has five children. Doreen (Mrs. Douglas Morton) graduated from the Olds School of Agriculture and is now a government seed analyst. They have one son and reside in Edmonton. Jack married Joyce Olesen and is employed by B.C.L.M. Construction in Edmonton. They have one son. Marilyn, a business college graduate, married Lyle Olesen.



Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nelson, Heckla.

HOLA

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT OF HOLA

It must be understood that in the early days of settlement, chiefly by the Icelandic pioneers, that Hola School Division encompassed a large area. This territory could now in 1970 be designated as the Hola, Tindastoll and Markerville districts. The district now known as Hola deals with the land lying north and west of Markerville in range 2, township 37 and west of the 5th meridian.

Much information has been gleaned from the writings of one of the very first pioneers, J.J. Hunford, appearing in the Winnipeg old Almanacs of that time.

Emigrating from Iceland to North Dakota and Minnesota earlier these people believed that with homesteads being thrown open in Canada there would be opportunity for all and a more moderate climate than they had found. Scouts (Sigrudur Bjornson) went first to the west coast and then back to Calgary and joined by S. Goodman finally fixed upon a location north of the Red Deer River with good grass, water and shelter along a little river, the Medicine (Muskeke) in 1888.

Referring in particular to the present Hola area under study these pioneer names may be presented:—

South side of the Medicine River — B. Bjornson, S. Maxson, (Magnuson), Gotveld Thorlakson, G. Eirikson, J. Strong, G. Johannson, H. Hillman (Jonson), C. Christinson.

North side of the Medicine River — M. Steinson, S. Bjornson, J. Hunford (Jonson), St. G. Stephanson, G. Thorlakson, Thor. Gudmundson.

Among the Icelandic people there were many Jon and Jonsens which they all changed to John and Johnson due to postal difficulties delivering the mail to the right persons. There were many adopted names corresponding with place names in Iceland: Jonas Jonson (Hunford); Herman Jonson (Hillman); Jon Jonson (Jon Strong); there were also many Gudmansons. Some changed to Goodman. Others changed because people could not pronounce their names properly. Sigurdur Magnusson changed his name to Sam Maxson while many others used initials instead of full Christian names.

The first years were wet years and the Medicine river was high so the new settlers decided to stay on the east side as that meant one less river to cross. The Red Deer River from Poplar Grove (Innisfail) was enough of a challenge. Township 37, range 2, west 5 was not surveyed for many years and some settlers found they were on C.P.R. or Hudson Bay land. The government offered to trade with the companies for those that wished to stay on their piece of land.

As with all pioneers extreme frugality was the order of the day and hardships were many. Gradually livestock and implements were accumulated. Barter was the medium of exchange. Wool was spun and made into the famous Icelandic mitts and socks.



Threshing.

Hides were tanned and used. The Medicine River yielded fresh fish in the spring (suckers, pike, pickerel, and gold eye). But Snake Lake (Sylvan Lake) yielded better fish (pike in larger quantities which were dressed, boned, salted, hung up to dry and smoked). These furnished food for a larger part of the year.

The wet years were followed by very dry years, the winters were very hard and there was frost every month of the year. The Medicine River has at intervals added to the burdens. It reached its peak of flooding in 1920 when the school had several feet of water in it and the books were rescued by boat. 1948 was another flood year when much of the grain flats and pastures were under water. In 1901 Stephan G. Stephanson was one of the first to ripen grain. It was cut by 'cradle', bound by hand and threshed by flail the following winter. Gardens were very difficult, as even potatoes were hard to grow. By 1910 pansies and sweet peas made their appearance. George Moore raised the first garden corn.

The turn of the century witnessed the arrival of a considerable number of new settlers among whom were the Milnes, Nels and Ole Engeseth, Nicholson, Nels Petersen and Scotts.

The homestead regulations in 1905 permitted any male over 18 years of age or any widows to obtain a quarter section for a fee of ten dollars. A dwelling was to be erected on the land and residence maintained for at least six months of the year for three years. During this time 15 acres must be brought under cultivation or, if living away, 30 acres of cultivation. At the end of three years if all the regulations were fulfilled the homesteader received a free title.

When the land seeker arrived in Alberta he found there were no taxes except where the farmers themselves levied taxes to pay for schools and roads. These ranged from \$7.50 to \$10.00 a year on each quarter section.

Fuel was obtained from the wood on the land (silver poplar) put up, and sawed for a year's supply. Later coal for the night fires was bought and hoarded.

In 1905 the staple goods were priced: sugar 6c lb., tea and coffee 30c lbs., bacon 13c lb., flour \$2.75 cwt., wages for carpenters 35c hr., and common laborers \$2.00 a day.

Although roving bands of Indians are not remembered in these parts there have been many, many relics of their presence found along streams and in

certain 'apparent' battle ground locations by collectors of these artifacts. Deep buffalo wallows in the hills have been in evidence until fairly recently and buffalo heads and horns were common place when mowing.

Winter work included log hauling followed by wood sawing bees. In order to keep the houses warm, a big problem was to split the green wood and bring it in to bank the fires. Pete Maxson and Joe and John Hillman had wood sawing outfits.

Hay was stacked and then in the winter it was forked into the baler and tied with wire into bales. A large amount of this hay was shipped out or sold to Jackson's Railroad Camp (where Clyde Stauffer later lived) who were constructing the road to Rocky Mountain House. In this way the income was somewhat augmented.

When roads began to be improved, road taxes were increased and in many cases these taxes were paid in work. The roadway had to be cleared, plowed, disced, built up by the use of slip and fresno followed by grading. Slip and fresno work required 2 or 4 horses. In 1922 Pete Maxson and J.K. Johansson had 8 horse outfits on the graders. At this time Bill Stringer was councillor and Barney Hunford overseer. The days extended from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. of heavy grueling work for horses and men. The slip and fresno work in the hottest time of July required young fellows to walk behind the teams, one to fill the slip, one to dump and one to drive. Perhaps four outfits at a time would be working on a stretch. It is remembered that the Palson road going west was particularly muskeggy soil and had to be corduroyed in part to hold up. The large amount of soil taken from the hill there for the fill is still visible proof of the amount of work put into that road.

The Icelandic Royal Cake, Vinetarta, stands out foremost in the sweets. It is made in several thin layers (6 or 8) of rich dough put together with prunes and flavored with cardemon seed). The very thin Icelandic pan cakes are also distinctive. They were paper thin, sprinkled with sugar and rolled. Flat bread was baked on top of stove.

Among the meat dishes long remembered are 'miost' (a whey cheese) obtained by long heating and constant stirring to finally thicken to a sweet cheese. 'Skir' a cheese which used rennet in milk. Among the meat dishes were Slatur, Kiva, Rollapylsa and Liverpilsa.

Reciting or chanting of poetry (Kjeta) and story telling were among the principal forms of entertainment in ancient Iceland at banquets and other public gatherings. And so we find that the pioneers in the new land occupied the long dark evenings, first with books, often one person reading to the group or worker while knitting, spinning and carding progressed. These sagas, eddas and stories, part of their ancient heritage were from the Icelandic library which had been established in the hamlet of Markerville. Icelandic papers from Winnipeg, Logberg and Heimskingla, added to the readers' fare.



1910 — Construction of swinging bridge. L. to R.: W. L. Scott, Dan Morkeberg, George Scott, Roy Scott.

The Icelanders of old were particularly fond of athletic games and outdoor sports, such as swimming and skating parties on the river. In fact these were an important factor in the upbringing and education of youth as well as of general importance in the life of the people. Wrestling seems to have been a common form of entertainment. In the new settlement in 1902 the Fensala Stock Company was formed by these hardy pioneers and in 1903 it was through their combined efforts that the Fensala Hall was built and stands till this day in 1970 as a monument to them. (As indeed does the Markerville Lutheran community church which was built in 1907). This community hall has been the centre of many activities including that of a gymnasium with all necessary equipment in the early days.

It is not possible to write of various other matters of the life of the pioneers of Hola without it being clear to the reader that the total unit included Tindastoll, Markerville and Hola and these ventures were co-operative with Markerville the centre as the stores, post office, creamery, etc. were centered there. This applies in all cases to the church, ladies aid 'Vonin', library, Markerville Brass Band etc.

To honor a national holiday in the old land, the highlight of the pioneer year was the 9th of August when the Icelandic Picnic was held at Markerville. Compensation for loneliness and gloom of the winter and held at a season when farm work was a little slack, people from all parts attended in great numbers. It was planned in detail. A program was arranged and there were many able speakers, both local and from distant points. Sports events, ball games, tug of war, and other contests of skill took place. It was the social event of the year. However, as time went on the weather refused to co-operate and it never failed to rain that day, particularly on the picnic grounds. Nothing daunted, the day was changed to another historical date, June 17. Gradually the same phenomenon took place and through the passage and tempo of time the annual affair no longer occupied the same place in the lives of the people. The gala event was eventually abandoned, the last one probably taking place about 1930 and bearing little resemblance to its forebears.

Bjorn Thorlakson writes a short tribute to the wives of the pioneers who stood side by side with their husbands through thick and thin. "When one realizes the long trek from Calgary in open wagons in rain in those earliest years, one thinks of the hardship of mothers with babes-in-arms, of the loneliness when husbands left to earn money for much needed supplies. We salute the source of the much needed encouragement to face the odds to win the battle."



Markerville Brass Band — 1911: John Hillman, Arthur Thompson, Frost Kristinnson, Jake Stephenson, Joe Hillman, John Christvinson, Mundi Stephenson, Harry Hillman. Sitting: Eric Eirikson, John Olson, Joe Johnson, Siggie Sigurdson. Little boy is Steve Johnson.

THE MARKERVILLE BRASS BAND by Bjorn Thorlakson, J.M. Hillman and other accounts.

In 1907 an Icelander named Lofson came here and formed the first band taking the name of the district Post Office. Many were interested and the membership increased steadily. They practiced weekly at Hola school. After a year the leader left for Iceland for financial reasons. He formed the Reykjavik Brass Band. This past year 1973 this band visited Canada and the historic sites here. One of the band leaders of the Reykjavik band is a nephew of Bjorn Thorlakson — well known pioneer, now living in Innisfail. A picture of the early Markerville band hangs in the Pioneer Lodge in Red Deer.

Arthur Thompson was the earliest local leader of the band succeeded by Bjorn Bjornson. Among the members of the early band were Siggie Sigurdson — cornet and slide trombone. Harry Hunford, Harry Hillman, Jacob Stephanson played tenor. Mundi Stephanson 'big drum', Pete Hillman slide trombone. John Hillman, Joe Hillman and his wife supplemented their income in early marriage by playing for winter dances.

There were clubs and lodges to be joined, rifle club, Freemason Lodge - Woodmen of the world - Elks and Knights of Pythias, all drawing various members from the community.

THREE POINT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On Feb. 7, 1952, the (Markerville) Three Point branch of the Alberta Women's Institute was organized. President was Mrs. Eldo Flake, Vice-Pres. Mrs. L.M. Johnston and Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. J.K. Johannson. At that time the three points designated were Markerville, Hola and Heckla. For the last number of years the membership is representative of Hola, Heckla and Spruce View with Markerville the Post Office.

THE CHRISTINNSON CEMETERY AT HOLA

At the time of Stephen's death the Christinnson cemetery was registered and surveyed. Earlier burials had been on the home place of the bereaved as in the case of Herman Hillman. J. Hunford and others. However, the Christinnson cemetery is reserved for members of the immediate families.

1909 Gestur Cecil, son of Stephan G. Stephanson died.

1911 Gudbjorg, mother of Stephan G. Stephanson died.

Set in the gate of the board fence was the inscription "Komin Heimm" (Arrived Home). Later

another permanent fence of concrete and chain was set up by Aug. Asmundson by subscription to the project.

1923 Mrs. Lilja (Christinnson) Johnson died.

1926 Mrs. Sigridur Johnson - friend of Gudbjorg.

1927 Stephan G. Stephanson (Honored Poet).

In 1936 by public subscription from Canada and the United States a cenotaph of rock from Arni Palson's place and Ralph Smith's in Centreville district was erected by Tony Kressman of Sylvan Lake under direction of Mr. O. Sigurdson, old time friend.

1940 Mrs. Stephan G. Stephanson (Helga)

1940 Mrs. Arni Bardal (twin daughter) accidentally killed day of mother's funeral.

1942 Mrs. Baldur Stephanson - daughter-in-law of Stephan G.

1942 Siggie Benediktson, husband of Rosa.

1944 Gestur Stephanson, son of Baldur.

1949 Baldur Stephanson, son of Stephan G.

1958 Jake Stephanson, ashes spread on father's grave.

1960 Siggie Sigurdson, married to twin daughter Jenny.

1962 Hannes Christinnson, nephew of Stephan G.

HOLA SCHOOL

The pioneers built the first school in 1895 on SE 1/4-10-37-2-W5. Among the first pupils, which numbered 49 in 1906 were the following names: Steve, Sadie, Emma, Josie Gudmundson; Margaret Hunford; John and Lena Hillman; Regina, Josie, Lena, Millie and John Strong; Lily, Frost and Steve Kristjanson; Baldur and Mundi Stephanson; John and Julia Eymundson; Bill, Joe and Jon Johnson; Helgi and Paul Bardal; Sara Bjornson; Steve and John Gillis.

The second school was opened in 1904 on SW 1/4-3-37-2-W5 down in the bend of the river. There was a hanging bridge erected over the river so that the pupils from the other side could cross. There was a barn on each side for the horses the children rode. Later when the river bridge was built the walking bridge was purchased by Dan Morkeberg and was moved to span the river as a short cut from his residence to Markerville hamlet. In 1906 the list of students included: Eva, Elmer and Bob Nicholson; Roy, George and Christa Scott; Jenny, Fanny and Gestur Stephanson; Joe, Leslie, Mabel, Flossie, Ruby and Howard Johnston; Violet, Dori and Gestur Johannson; Bjorn Thorlakson; Annie and Disa Bjornson; Steve and Begga Hunford; Bertha and Bjorn Bjornson; Steve Maxson and Harry Hillman.

In 1937 Hola School was included in the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15, and in 1957 the rural school was closed and the pupils sent by bus to Markerville. At this time there were 18 pupils and they included: Betty, Billy and Jimmy Anderson; Linda Johannson; Edna, Starr and Barry Moxness; Marilyn, Nancy and Mindy Stephanson; Stewart and Kenny Stephanson; Judy Groves; David and Vern Malcolm, Gerald and Petrea Miller, and Philip Nielson.



R. to L.: Barney Johnson, Johnny Goodmanson (half brother to Barney and first teacher at Hola) and Mrs. Johnson.

In 1964 the school district was transferred from the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15 to Red Deer School Division No. 35. Following the findings of the Coterminous Boundaries Commission in 1959, the Markerville School was closed and everyone attended Spruce View Centralized School by bus.

Hola was named after the highest seat of learning in the old country at that time. The translation means the plural of "Hill" — i.e. "Hills" or "Many Hills".

S.G. Stephanson and Gudmundson cut the logs one half mile west of the present site of Evarts. J. Hunford and G. Thorlakson undertook to float them down the river to the S.G. Stephanson farm. Thor Gudmundson was the building foreman having learned this art in Minnesota. Jon Strong made the black-board, window frames and doors.

The first school board: S.G. Stephanson, Chairman; K. Christinnson, Sec.-Treasurer; Thor Gudmundson, trustee. The first teacher was Jon Gudmundson whose remuneration was board and lodging. He was "put up" by the families in turn. In 1906 the teacher at that time superintended the care of the spruce trees. (These are still there!) His name was Discher. He assigned each tree to certain waterers. It is said that one can tell by looking at them how well the various waterers did their work! It is also said that the pupils taught him instead of him the pupils and that when he left he was well-versed in Icelandic!!

In 1909 the enrolment was 66 — ranging from six years to twenty-two years under the direction of Miss Daly — an Irishwoman educated in London, England and who is remembered as a real teacher.

'When the Hola school was built in 1904 and ready for use a Grand Opening was held with a very interesting concert. To me it seemed a very important affair as there was so much hustle and bustle getting ready for it. One of the numbers — "Can you, Sweetheart, keep a secret", by four couples parading round on the platform — Laura and Begga Johnson, Fanny and Jenny Stephanson, Joe and Les Johnston, Ted Thompson and Jonny — J.M. Johnson.

Laura Johnson, Fanny and Jenny Stephanson dressed in old-fashioned dress and sun bonnets sang "Three Old Maids".

Thora Thompson Hansen (Reminiscences)

With the closing of Hola School No. 394, it became the property of Hola Community Society and has since been used as a meeting place for bi-weekly card parties in winter and for showers, anniversaries and picnics, also a poll for provincial and municipal elections. The officers at time of organization of the society were: Honorary President - Bjorn Thorlakson; President - Morris Stone and Sec.-Treasurer - Harold Johnston.

REMINISCENCES OF THE PIONEERS courtesy of Mrs. Harry Hansen, Joe Hillman, L.M. Johnston, Mrs. Jonas Hunford, Cecil Stephanson and J.K. Johannson.

It is remembered, by some of the daughters of the pioneers, that at the turn of the century, there was a big blueberry patch up on George Moore's present land. These were low bush blueberries (such as we only find now in 1970 many miles west on muskeg land). Many people came from as far as Big Bend, from the Red Deer River and from Yankee Flats (Spruce View) as well as closer. The Moores were most hospitable and made everyone welcome.

The first remembrances of canning in jars comes with the memory of those berry picking expeditions as blueberries need no sugar to keep. The land abounded in wild fruit — saskatoons, plentiful, wild strawberries on the higher open land and raspberries, especially a little later. They were especially plentiful up in Solheima (where Gordon Johnson lives now). Also there were black currants, gooseberries, chokecherries and cranberries.

As the settlers prospered they formed a meat ring. At intervals of two weeks each member would take turns butchering and the meat would be divided. Hung in a well it would stay cold and fresh for a week. Pork was fried down and covered with fat in cans. Ducks, partridges and prairie chickens were plentiful and good. Bush rabbits, tasting like chicken, were good fare. Jack rabbits were not here for many years. Disease in rabbits at that time was unknown. Now, decades later, the public is being encouraged in a taste for rabbit meat and various commercial enterprises are being started.

The stories of Iceland had a good moral tone and 'good' won out. There was a belief in the 'little people' probably brought from Ireland. During a visit to this community by the President of Iceland, Steini Budvarson asked him "Do they (in the old country) still see the little people?", quickly came the answer, "Yes, but no so very often."

In 1906 on Arbor Day Mr. Bill Scott brought spruce trees to the new school to be planted on the North side. Each pupil planted and tended and watered a tree. In 1970 these trees live on, enhancing the Hola Community Centre — The same Hola.

The early settlers really appreciated something from the stores. Getting the necessary groceries at the Benediktson and G.E. Johnson stores by barter. Home-made mitts, socks, butter and eggs were traded for dried fruits, apples, prunes, peaches. Money was practically non-existent. They could be gotten in 25 lb. boxes. Pedlars drove around with horse and buggy. Even after 1930 they drove from door to door hawking their wares — clothing, sewing material and household needs. An old harness maker came through during the war in 1940.

It rained nearly every day in summer of 1930 and the trails were mostly under water. Old timers remember the tough winter of 1906-7. 1919 was a wet miserable year — crops snowed under — hay was scarce, bundles were dug from under the deep

snow with hard labour to feed the cattle. If bought the bundles cost 25c under snow.

There was a late spring in 1920 — all the snow melted in four days creating a flood in the lowlands. A boat was used to transfer the books at Hola school to a dry place by Steve Maxson and Harry Hillman.

In the summer of 1927 a terrible hail storm wreaked havoc on crops and buildings with stones as big as goose eggs. J.M. Hillman relates it took him two hours to drive 6 miles as the ground was covered to a depth of 3 inches. From 1924-1931 four bad hailstorms struck, the crops were frozen three years successively. Those were hard trial years and by then the depression struck. In his diary Joe Hillman tells of trapping and selling pelts — coyotes \$9, lynx \$35, muskrats 35c and mink \$3.00.

J.M. Hillman tells of the opportunity to earn extra cash in southern Alberta with the earlier harvesting. Seven dollars a day for thirty-five days for a man with a team and rack. He himself hired a man to drive the team for \$3.25 a day and he operated the steam engine for 12 days at \$12.00 a day. Mary Johnston (Mrs. David) raised a flock of ducks as there was a great deal of water around the farm. She used to give the Indians tea when they were passing by. That ended one day when the women were in the house having tea — the men were in the barn stealing harness!!

Rev. and Mrs. Peter Hjalmsen live on in the memories of all who knew them. Many couples through the years were married by this pioneer minister at the homestead home. Baptismal ceremonies and confirmation classes were held until the last years when his eyesight failed. He was a forceful speaker of strong convictions and his wife was his gentle and steadfast helpmate.

GUDMUNDUR AND HELGA BJORNSON

Mr. & Mrs. G. Bjornson were married in Iceland and left there in 1900 with their 3 children to join their relatives near Innisfail N.W.T. A friend Constantine had been asked to look out for them on their arrival and he took them by democrat to the home of Johann Bjornson, mail carrier and post master of Tindastoll. During the trip over the horses narrowly missed breaking through the Red Deer River as it was the last crossing before the break up. Next day the rest of the belongings were ferried across by boat. The family made their home with Uncle and Aunt Thorlakson that summer and in the fall a log house 14' x 18' was built on their homestead NE20-37-2-5. 1905 was an exciting year for everyone. Alberta became a province, a new post office was established in Markerville. The road from Innisfail gradually improved and a bridge was built across the Medicine River. In 1936 the homestead was sold to Henry Brown and the Bjornsons moved to Flatbush to live near their children. They are buried in the Fawcett cemetery.

Family — Gudbjourg married Joseph Key. Gudrun married J.M. Hillman. Bjorn married Sarett Peper-son. They live at Westlock Alberta and have 3 sons and 2 daughters. Thordis Anna married Ray

Rasmussen, lives at Flatbush and has 3 sons and 4 daughters.

Henry Brown sold the original homestead to Mr. & Mrs. Alec Meston of Three Hills who have been community minded. They have one son Tommy and one daughter Lorraine.

S. BJORNSON

NW10-37-2-5 was first homesteaded by S. Bjornson with no known relatives. Later it was acquired by Mundi Stephanson who sold it to his son Edwin. Edwin and Margaret spent their early married years there. Berries including a small patch of blueberries were in abundance there in good years, as well as wild flowers, especially the yellow Lady Slipper. When Edwin moved to his grandfather's farm this quarter was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Rutschke and family who were on SW21-37-2-5. Recently J. Scrocki bought and farms the Rutschke lands.

CARL CHRISTENSEN

SE9-37-2-5 was a C.P.R. quarter. In the early thirties groups of Indians with all their horses and families used to make it a stopping place. The men might be out brushing on the farms as day labor and the rest of the family caught gophers. They were very fond of buying cream. In the evening there was the Indian chanting. Mr. & Mrs. Carl Christensen and family who had come from Denmark, built a house and other buildings when they bought it. Their family: Val, Inga, Martha, Carl and Martin. When they retired to Markerville, it was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Burrell, then Mr. & Mrs. Bill McQuarrie spent a few years, followed by Doug Anderson who sold recently to Keith Christiansen and his wife who live in Calgary but who have built a summer home here.

ASMUNDUR CHRISTIANSON

Asmundur Christianson homesteaded NW1/4-4-37-2-5. He was the father of Hannah who married Joe Johnson later in life. There was a son Eddie and a second daughter Runa whose married name was Plummer. Both Hannah Christianson and Mrs. Plummer were among the teachers of Hola School No. 394 in early years. Asmundur was a carpenter and built many of the houses in the area. Nothing is known of the succeeding owners, Stigings and Brown brothers. In 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ramage emigrated from Scotland, and with them three sets of families. Yours, Mine and Ours. There was Archie, Willie and Jock Allan. Elsie, Bill, George, Kate, Steve, Donald, Angus, Robert, Eric and Annie. They were a musical family and provided entertainment at many functions. When they moved the farm was sold to Svein Maxson along with NE5-37-2-5.

THE CHRISTINNSONS based on an account by Mrs. August Seifreid.

Kristin and Siglaug Christinnson bought NE1/4-3-37-2-W5 from the C.P.R. at the turn of the century. Kristin was the first president of the Icelandic Ladies Aid (Vonin). They had two sons Stephen and Hannes Frost and one daughter Lilja. Stephen died at the age of 22 years (1905) from typhoid. The remaining son,

Hannes Frost, of Kristin and Siglaug Christinnson remained on the homestead until his death. Lilja married Joe Johnson and lived in the double house for many years. Their family: Steve, who married Beacie Morkeberg, May married Pete Olesen, Nora married T. Linneberg and Adeline who married Jack Cook.

Later in the life of Frost (Hannes) a young Danish couple were in the double house, Harold Neilsen and his wife Inga Christensen. Inga deceased in 1954. They had two sons, Orla living in Spruce View and Philip with C.P. Air in Calgary. Both ardent fishermen from their boyhood on the Medicine River. Harold married the former Lois Corsiatto and they live in Markerville. The Christinnson homestead is now owned by Warren Miller.

HENRY CLARKIN

Henry Clarkin on SE1/4 14-37-2-W5 was an Irish bachelor who had the sobriquet of 'The Pope' applied to him. It is said that he was tall and had very dark striking eyes. After many years of single life he married Mrs. Parkin in 1920 who was raised in these parts being the sister of George and Clive Nicholson. She had two sons and one daughter, Don, Elvin and Susie. To this union there were born Jimmy, Billy and Violet. Some time after his death of a heart attack while loading grain Mrs. Clarkin and Billy moved to the coast. Jimmy served overseas and on returning married Margaret Phillion. Jimmy became a well driller and on selling the home place to Morris Stone in 1950 lived at Benalto before locating elsewhere. Violet Clarkin is still teaching as far as is known.

Mr. & Mrs. Morris Stone have one daughter Colleen who remains at home with them and twins: John, a carpenter, married and away from the farm at his trade and Joan, married, who works at the Deerhome in Red Deer.

MRS. ROSA DAVIDSON

The NE10-37-2-W5 was homesteaded by Mrs. Rosa Davidson, a widow in the early 1900's. She had two sons and one daughter. After she left the farm was bought by B.J. Chapman of Didsbury and Calgary, who purchased it mainly for speculation. After a number of years it was taken over by the municipality from whom it was purchased in 1925 by Mr. Baldur Stephanson. He in turn sold it to his son Cecil B. Stephanson, present owner.

Cecil B. Stephanson, second son of Baldur Stephanson, was married to Frethe Stewart of Three Hills, in 1942. It was on this farm that they built their home and raised their family (he also acquired NW11-37-2-W5). Cecil was trouble shooter for Markerville-Dickson Mutual Telephone Co. for some twenty-five years. He also served as Director for six years. On his retirement from the Telephone Co. in 1966, he was presented with an engraved plaque in appreciation of services rendered. He also served on the Hola School board as Trustee before the school was taken into the larger Centralized Unit. At present he is Mail Courier on a Rural route. He

was one of the first organizers of the Hola Community Centre.

The Stephansons have a family of three sons, Stewart, Kenneth and Ronald.

After graduating from High School, Stewart was employed by the Dept. of Lands and Forests. He served as a Look-out man at Chungo and Baseline in the Clearwater-Rocky Forest Reserve, also as part time Radio Operator in Rocky Mtn. House. He also was Forest Officer I at Fort Vermilion in the Footner Lake Forest Reserve.

Stewart married Jean Sinclair of Rocky Mtn House. He is now employed by North Western Utilities, and they make their home in Rocky.

Kenneth has been employed by Heathfield and Hilderman, Electrical Contractors, of Spruce View, for the past five years and is learning the electrical trade.

Ronald is a student at Spruce View School.

NELS ENGESETH

Nels Engeseth was an American pioneer who homesteaded SE2-37-2-5 in 1902 and remained till about 1911 and then moved to Blaine, Wash. He had a family of three boys and three girls and the children joined the Thompson and Nicholson children going to Hola School. Time passed and Ed Anderson was on the place followed by the J.O. Johnson family. Mrs. Johnson, the former Katie Wilson was a wonderful teacher and taught at Hola school before and after her marriage. The family consisted of Vivian, Robert and Ralph. The next owners were Mr. and Mrs. Orval Gatzke. (They had one daughter Muriel.) They were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hatherly of Castor, who later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hansen and retired to Edmonton.

In 1957 Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hansen came from Provost where they had lived for 2 years, previously having homesteaded in the Peace River Country in 1932. Married in Provost in 1931 the couple headed for their homestead across country with team and wagon and all their earthly possessions. They lost their horses the first year from swamp fever. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen raised a family of nine and they have all established homes of their own.

In the years since 1964 they have fostered nine children, two of whom they have adopted as their own. They have been honored by the province for their work with foster children. They have built an attractive house, the fruit of their own labours and a magazine ran an article on "The House that Alice Built". Although she disclaims any particular mention she is quite deft with carpenter tools and a worthy help mate to her husband. This small farmstead indeed demonstrates what can be accomplished with the true pioneer spirit and effort. Mr. & Mrs. Hansen on retirement sold to Bob Robertson.

OLE ENGESETH

One of the pioneers from Minnesota homesteaded NE2-37-2-5. His name was Ole Engeseth and he came in the same group as the Peter Thompson family. He built a log house in the middle of the quarter. He later went back to Norway but the widow

returned to live with her son on the Nels Engeseth quarter. Don and Ethel Malcolm bought the homestead. They built a house in 1943. They have sons who now join them in farming. Family: David, Vern, Lee, Bob, Ken, Margaret, Shirley, Grace, Jean and Neil. Margaret and Grace now deceased.

G. GRIMSON

Grimur and Isabelle Grimson homesteaded NW16-37-2-5 and had one daughter Shanna and an adopted son Don.

THOR GUDMUNDSON

Thor Gudmundson, Icelandic pioneer homesteaded SW15-37-2-5. There were four daughters: Josie, later a teacher at Hola who married William Janssen; Lily, musically talented; Emma and Sadie.

Mr. & Mrs. Gunnar Johannson and family spent a winter 1906-7 at this location and were succeeded by Baldur Stephanson who spent his married life there. The home place has been for some years residence of Hrefna Stephanson who is married to Fred Mottl.

GEORGE HARVEY

George Harvey homesteaded NE12-37-2-5. He was the first councillor representing this community in Local Improvement District 19-A-5. He worked for a time at blacksmithing in Markerville. One day the neighbors were going to help him with some building on the farm. He was short of hammers, so he watched till he saw them leaving and called to the men to bring hammers. According to Inga Johnston, the first settlers often called to their neighbors. It was one way of communication. Later the homestead was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Maitland White who had one son Art. Mr. White had two sons by a previous marriage. Mrs. (McCullough) White taught the Hola No. 11 School when it was built in that vicinity in the 1930's to accommodate the overflow of pupils as was done in many districts. She was known for her pleasant personality. With the passing of his parents, Art White sold the place to Mr. & Mrs. Gunnar Neilsen (the former Jean Fraser) in 1959. They have two sons Kenny and Norman and one daughter Edna.

MR. & MRS. EMIL HEHR

Referring to Sec. 1-37-2-5, these quarters were originally owned by Theodor Onsum and J.O. Johnson and the east 1/2 section by S.J. Chadwick. Mr. & Mrs. Hehr have two sons, Earl, a successful businessman, and Dale who operates the expanding farm with his father.

HERMAN JONSSON HILLMAN HOMESTEAD

Herman and Margaret Hillman came in 1900 and for a time, before the survey, settled on NW9-37-2-5 later moving to SW16-37-2-5. Their family: John, Lena, J.M. (Joe), Harry and Peter. Early in 1912, John and Joe took a course in masonry and carpentry, hauled gravel sand and lumber for a new home for their parents. It was completed by July and had a full basement and plastered interior. Through the years it has been modernized and is occupied to this day.

Lena married to Jack Davidson. Four sons. Later married Edward Anderson and had two sons.

John married Mrs. Dora Eymundson who had Hannah and Shanna by her previous marriage. The John Hillman family: Clifford, Evelyn, Elmer, Doris, Bernice, June and Marilyn.

Joe: His wife died, so his mother took care of the younger children for a time and brought up the baby Anna to young womanhood.

Harry and Peter farmed the home place after the father died. Upon Harry's death, Peter carried on, marrying Hertha Gunther. After his death Hertha moved to Eckville and the farm was bought by J. Elmer Hillman in 1960, his grandfather's homestead.

JOE M. HILLMAN from Diary of J.M. Hillman and information from Jo. King.

SW20-37-2-5 was originally homesteaded by Jack Davidson who married Lena Hillman. He was a carpenter and later moved to Edmonton in partnership with John Hillman. He was succeeded by J.M. Hillman who married his childhood sweetheart Rooney Bjornson. Their family: Helgi, Johanna, Larus, Anna. He lost his wife when Anna was seven months old. After the bad storm of 1927 he moved to Benalto where he ran a livery stable. Later in life he moved to B.C. there, three of his children had become established.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hillman and Pastor Hjalmsen.

Helgi — the oldest son was devoted to his father and brother and sisters in their early bereavement. Later he made his home at Haney, B.C.

Johanna — married Denver King of Carstairs. She is widowed and employed by the B.C. Government with Social Welfare in North Burnaby, B.C.

Larus — served overseas 1940-45. Later became a marine engineer, now plowing the waves between Vancouver B.C. and Skagway, Alaska. He is married and has three sons.

Anna — Mrs. Ed Moxness, Penhold, Alberta.

With the retirement of J.M. Hillman the homestead was bought by Mr. & Mrs. Ray Smith and family.

They sold it to Helmut Lemke when they moved to Peace River. Mr. & Mrs. Helmut Lemke and family are now on the Jonas Bergstrom farm in New Hill. The J. Hillman land is now farmed by Holland of Centreville.

ELMER AND VIOLA HILLMAN

Elmer married Viola Johannson June 24, 1950, they made their home first on the former homestead of T. John Davidson, SW17-37-2-5, which he now uses for crop land. He also purchased a Hudson Bay quarter.

The family: Daryl married Arlene Fetch; Randy, Dwayne, and Judy married to Larrie Davis and their daughter Tamalyn.

JONAS JONSON HUNFORD written by Mrs. Jona Hunford (nee Stephanson) from excerpts of the old Icelandic Almanacs as written by Jonas J. Hunford.

Jonas Johnson Hunford and his wife came first to Dakota, U.S.A. then to Calgary and thence to the Hola district as a pioneer in 1880, homesteading NE16-37-2-W5. Of scholarly temperament, books and writing were important to him and much of the history of the settlement is available as a result of his writings in the Icelandic Almanacs. He had obtained a modest education by teaching himself and taught elementary school in Iceland. He had a great talent for singing and playing musical instruments which was reflected in several of his children.

In 1891 he and Johann Bjornson were instrumental in establishing a library "Idunn" at Tindastoll, later at Markerville. He was librarian until his health failed. The Icelandic people appreciated books to brighten dark days and long winter evenings. Mrs. Hunford married her tutor and left for another land where a large family was born.

Margaret — born in Iceland. Earned her living at an early age working for G. Thorlakson and later in Calgary. She married homesteader T.E. Stewart of Three Hills.

Freda died in infancy.

Bjarni - mainstay of the family. Mail courier.

Laura married Helgi Bardal of Happy Hill. One daughter Freda married Dave Wecker.

Freda died in Calgary at 19 of typhoid fever.

John "Big Jack" worked for many years for Rev. Peter Hjalmsen. A trapper and horse lover, his heart was as big as he was.

Steve served in England in the First World War. Married Minnie Lipka of Evergreen. Daughter Isobel and son Jonas.

Ben helped widowed sister Laura on farm, later logged at Rocky Mountain House.

Begga married Jonas Bergstrom of New Hill. Two daughters Margaret and Helen.

Helen stayed at home in the parents' later years. Passed away suddenly at 29 years.

Hannes was quiet and devoted to books. A librarian following his father, and musical.

Jonas T. married Bena Stephanson, lived on the old homestead until retiring to Sylvan Lake.

GUNNAR JOHANNSON

Gunnar Johannson came from Iceland in 1888. His father's name was Johann Haldurson, hence, in accordance with Icelandic custom, Gunnar's name was Johannson. Gunnar came to Calgary in 1889 from Argyle Manitoba and there married Thorbjorg Gestsdottir who had come there to work from Iceland in 1889. In 1892 the couple homesteaded east of the Tindastoll post office. In all, they spent 14 years at two locations in this area but there was no good well water to be found on the homestead or the pre-emption. In 1906 the family moved to the quarter near Jonas Hunford on the Medicine River. In 1907 they moved across the river to the present site of the family home which they bought from Joe G. Palmason. This land is very fertile (NW1/4-9-37-2-W5) and was originally homesteaded by Gotvill Thorlakson.

Thorbjorg was orphaned at an early age and spent her youth in the household of a doctor. She was of strong nature and determined to go to the new land of greater opportunity but she had a transportation problem, for one thing, to overcome — the doctor didn't wish to lose the willing household helper. One time, washing clothes in the hot pool, she was quite seriously burned. Another time, after her marriage she narrowly escaped while crossing on the ice floes of the Medicine River. She was a leader and interested in anything progressive for her community.

Thorbjorg worked at housework in Calgary before her marriage and also as a household helper for Mrs. O. Sigurdson in the Burnt Lake District. Gunnar also worked in Calgary at the Eau Claire saw mill.

There were five children born to this union: Gunnar Gestur, Hallor Julius, Hildur Fjola, Holmfridur Laura, and Johann Kjartan.

The Icelanders were particularly fond of athletic games and outdoor sports, wrestling, swimming and ball games and this was reflected in the interests of the family. In winter, many a skating party for the young folk was organized on the Medicine River with accompanying bonfire. Reciting or chanting of poetry and story telling were among the principal forms of entertainment in the home and so it was with this



Gunnar and Thorbjorg Johannson.



Home of pioneer Gunnar Johannson, Boy J. K. Johannson.

tight knit family. The long dark evenings of winter were spent in knitting and spinning and "teasing" the home grown wool while the one took turns reading to the workers. The Icelandic library at Markerville with J. Hunford, Librarian, was one source of material. In Icelandic stories, "good" always wins out. From Ireland, their forebears had a belief in the "little people", also in ghosts.

After Gunnar's death in 1927, Thorbjorg stayed on for 2 years and then sold the farm to her youngest son Johann Kjartan (Big Joe) who has built up a prosperous farmstead. Thorbjorg then moved to live near Laura in her comfortable separate house where she remained till Jan. 21, 1940, alert and quite active till the last, with her papers and knitting and other pursuits.

Fjola married Karl Olson in 1917 and died at an early age in 1922.

Gestur worked for Arnie Palsson and later acquired land in the Craig District. In late life he married Louise Christensen of Red Deer. He retired to Innisfail where he died in 1964. Halldor married Olive Gudmundson in 1927. Laura married the next door neighbor boy Stephen Maxson in 1926. Johann Kjartan bought his parents' farm and in 1930 married Hazel Stewart, at the homestead home of the Rev. and Mrs. Hjalmsen. This was the beginning of the depression, and poor crop years, and it is remembered, in 1931 barley and oats were selling for seven cents a bushel, while the threshing cost was four cents a bushel. For the next few years there was little improvement in prices, and in 1935 in order to buy a Mills Wire Weeder for ninety-eight dollars it took two two-year-old heifers, four two-hundred-pound hogs and thirty-eight dollars in cash, which incidentally was paid in small amounts. Butter fat for several years was ten cents a pound sold to the Markerville Creamery; the egg price might be said to be non-existent, being three cents a dozen. One could easily ship eggs and not get any return funds. From 1936 on, weather and prices improved somewhat so that the first tractor for the farm was purchased in 1938. In 1942 a large modern barn with milking equipment was built and in 1944 a modern house was completed. For some years a 32 volt power plant was used but in 1950 Calgary power electrified the area.

At this time too, gravelled local main roads added much to the ease of travel, although Joe had a model 'T' Ford in 1920 and earlier in 1917 Carl Morkeberg had this means of locomotion.

Through the years Joe served on the local School Board and was interested in all progressive projects for the community. In 1973 he was honored as a fifty year member of the Alberta Wheat Pool. His wife has been interested in the Alberta Women's Institute, having been a charter member since its inception in 1952. She receives notice from her special hobby of Nature Craft. They are the parents of three boys and three girls:

Viola; married to Elmer Hillman. She was one of the original "Tip Top Teeners" 4-H Club, organized in Markerville and later served several years as a leader.

Stanley; married Helen Livvam, teacher from Gilby and they have built up an attractive farmstead in the Heckla district. They have four children, Terry, Wendy, Wesley and Darren. Stan attended the Olds School of Agriculture.

Darlene; after high school attended the O.S.A. taking the two in one course in Home Economics. Married a fellow student Joe Bodwell of the Springvale district. They have four children, Lori, Joanne, Lucinda and Bradley.

Gerald; also attended O.S.A. taking the two in one course and is good at carpentry and cabinet making. He married Joyce Miller a teacher from the Craig district; they have two sons Jason and Richard. George and Linda; after high school they were popular singers on a local T.V. station with the Country Gentlemen. George married Jennine Moos Armstrong and has one son Brett. George is a registered tinsmith and sheet metal worker.

Linda was with International Business Machines for six years and received her versatile business training there. She married James E. Rehn and they live in Penticton B.C.

HALDOR JULIUS JOHANNSON SW8-37-2-5

Dori Johannson bought this Hudson Bay SW1/4-8-37-2-5 in 1920 and married Olive Gudmundson in 1927. He was a leader among the young people of the district and took an interest in community affairs as an adult. Due to ill health they moved to Surrey Centre B.C. in 1945. Fjola married Don Galloway of Cloverdale and they have two sons Bill and Bob.

Fay married Pete Klassen of Chilliwack and they have two sons Allen and Larry.

Bill Anderson of Craig bought the farmstead from Dori and Olive and established his nephew Cedric on this land. His wife was Roonie Thompson and they had several children. With their departure to Edmonton, Doug Anderson stayed there for a time.

Gerald Johannson married Joyce Miller and now owns this farm.

They have two sons Richard and Jason.

DAVID ABRAHAM JOHNSTON

David Johnston and Mary Milne were married in Ontario and came to Alberta in 1903 where they homesteaded SW12-37-2-W5. They had seven

children. Ethel died in childhood. Joe married Annie Eaton in 1912 and farmed in this district on SE17-37-2-5. For a time he operated the Pool Hall in Markerville. Later moving to Arizona due to ill health. Leslie Milne Johnston the second son operated a butcher shop in Markerville in partnership with his brother Joe for a period. Mabel Etta married Bert Thompson in 1914. Later she married Emil Sorenson. She passed away in Rochester after a brain tumor operation. Flossie taught school before marrying Guy Barhan, who farmed northwest of Benalto. In 1937 he was killed by runaway horses on a binder. Ruby Ethel married Walter Northey and farmed near Red Deer.

Howard Johnston worked at the creamery at Markerville and also farmed. He married Dora Sveinson. They live at Coombs B.C. Georgina, the youngest of the David Johnston family married Bjorn Bjornson who farmed SW7-37-1-5 and was in the trucking business before moving to Coombs V.I. The family Lovel, Sonya, Marvel, Darlene, Darwin, Disa Marie adopted by the Northeys (Lyle lost in infancy), and Dell. All reside around Coombs and Terrace B.C.

LESLIE MILNE JOHNSTON

Leslie Milne Johnston born in North Dakota June 30, 1889 came to Alberta with his parents in 1903 to settle on the SW12-37-2-W5. He helped build up the homestead for his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. David Johnston.

Leslie and his brother Joe got the first cattle on the place from east of Innisfail. These cattle were obtained on a calf share basis. There was lots of hay growing around the district and it could be cut any place not occupied. Haying was hard work in those days, most of it being stacked by team and rack or by the old hay slide.

Leslie and Joe operated a butcher shop in Markerville. Joe also had the mail route to Innisfail, and Leslie helped in the mail hauling. He also bought cattle for Pat Burns.

Leslie took a homestead on the SE6-37-3-W5. In 1910 Leslie and Bert Thompson took a contract with the Alberta Gov't. to deliver 1100 telephone poles north of Markerville and north to Evarts. The tamarak poles were cut and peeled about 25 miles west of the Johnston farm. Cleve Nickolson and Roy Scott helped in hauling the poles.



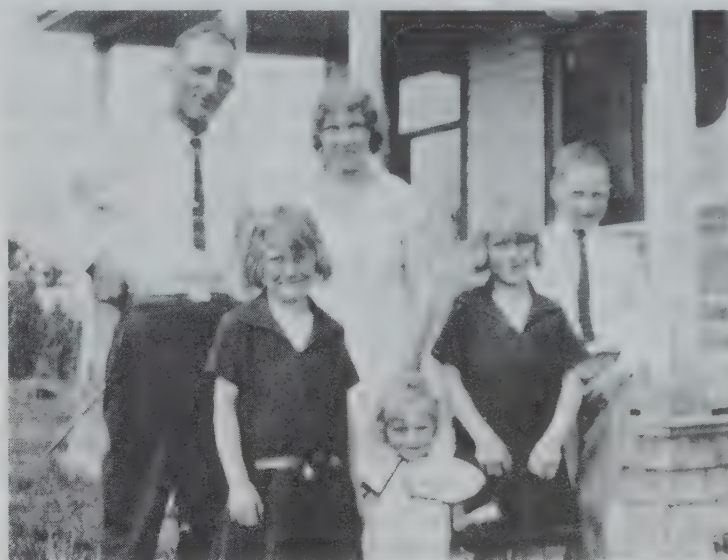
Johnston haying outfit.

Leslie Johnston and Inga Sveinson were married on Aug. 30, 1916 at Red Deer in the Presbyterian church by Rev. Brown.

They made their home on the Johnston farm north of Markerville. In the years to follow they cleared brush off the land with horses and the old side cut, brush cutter, making one round and throwing the brush back by hand before making another round. A lot of the brushing was done with the axe too. A lot of the breaking was done with a Van Slyke plow and horses. This plow is still on the place.

Grain was hauled to Sylvan Lake on sleighs with wide bunks with 4 horse teams, the grain being unloaded by hand into box cars. Leslie and Inga had three daughters and one son Harold born Nov. 27, 1917. Gladys born Jan. 29, 1920. Mary born Oct. 7, 1922. Eileen born Feb. 9, 1926.

Mrs. Clifford, who lived on the NW of 1 was a nurse and helped bring most of the children into the world.



Les Johnston family.

Leslie was always active in the community organizations, and was always ready to help neighbors. He served as Secretary and Treasurer for the U.F.A.; Secretary and trustee of Hola School. Took an active part in the School Fairs which were a big event in the district. He was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge which started in Markerville, then transferred to Innisfail. He was a faithful member, serving through all the offices of the Lodge. He also was a director of the Markerville-Dickson Mutual Telephone Co., serving for many years in that capacity. When the Presbyterian church took over services in Markerville he was a member of the board of managers.

Inga joined the Pythian Sisters Peace Temple, in Innisfail as a charter member. She also belonged to several organizations in the community, such as the Good Neighbors Club and W.I.

In the early years they had a lot of ups and downs struggling to their goal of improving the home place, buying more land etc. In 1933 they built a big barn

and kept building other buildings as they could afford it.

In 1940 they modernized their home, raised the house putting in a full basement and adding another room upstairs. At this time they put in a Delco 32 volt plant for power. This plant served until 1950, when Calgary power went through the district.

They always had a good herd of milk cows which helped to pay the bills. Along with the milk cows were range cows, pigs, chickens and grain farming which contributed to the success of the farm. They landscaped the farm yard with a lot of hard work and planning, which resulted in a nice looking farmstead.

Inga exhibited a lot of vegetables, cooking and other exhibits at the Benalto Fair and always ended up with a lot of prizes. She always had a wonderful garden.

With all the hard work, Inga and Leslie took time to go out and have fun, taking part in community entertainments, dances, shows etc.

Tragedy struck on July 26, 1955 when Leslie was accidentally killed by his own car in the pasture. This was a hard blow to Inga and the family.

The son Harold who had stayed home continued the farm operation. Inga moved to Red Deer where she now resides.

Harold married Vera McLeod. They have four boys and two girls.

Gladys married Percy Thresher. They have two boys and one girl and are residing in Red Deer.

Mary married Martin Roberts. They have two girls and one boy and are living at Greenwood B.C.

Eileen married Metro Makoiveichuk. They have two girls and two boys and live in Red Deer.

SIGURDUR MAXSON

Sigurdur Maxson was born in Skagafjord, Iceland Nov. 2nd 1863. He came by boat and train to North Dakota in 1888. In the spring of 1891 he came to the Northwest Territory and homesteaded on NE8-37-2-W5. This was later included in the Hola School District. Sigurdur worked for some time in Calgary. He died May 31, 1912.

Anna Kristin Peterson was born in Skagafjord, Iceland, Oct. 6th 1868 and emigrated to Winnipeg. She married Sigurdur Maxson in Calgary and they moved to what became the Markerville area, where they settled on the homestead in 1894 (they built the family home in 1894). Anna Kristin died Nov. 20th 1926. They had six children.

Stefan S. born April 16, 1895. He died on July 25, 1960. He was married to Laura Johansson in June 1926. They had one son Victor who is now foreman of road construction in B.C.

Gudrun born Nov. 30th 1898. She was married to G.J. Sveinbjornson born 1882 who died in 1967. She now resides in Vancouver.

Peter O. was born Feb. 22 1901 and he died May 6 1923.

Walter I. born April 18th 1903 - died April 1, 1966. He was married to Thorbjorg Elizabeth Bjornson born June 12, 1905 and died Aug. 19th 1961.

Magnus J. was born March 14th, 1905.

Sveinn K. was born Aug. 31st 1908.

All the children attended Hola School. All were confirmed in the Lutheran faith. Magnus and Svein live on the original homestead.

All became successful farmers, building beautiful homes, growing excellent crops and raising first class livestock. At first the cattle brand was 8TU and horse brand SS. Last 40 years the cattle brand 7U. Automation in the late 30's and 40's took heavy horses out of work until there were none left.

Our Pioneer parents were privileged to turn virgin soil. They shared in the concerns of the earliest settlements, of schools churches and libraries. They extended a helping hand in time of need. This was their fate; now none can boast of this chance of pioneering again, but we honor our parents for their steadfastness in those years when the struggle was so great and all energies were spent in keeping body and soul together. We have the privilege of knowing that their children succeeded in life, one having his home chosen as a worthy subject for a documentary film by a crew from Iceland, to hear of the innumerable recipients of our mother's generosity, and review contributions to the Canadian Panorama of growth, causes us to reflect with great pride on our primitive and humble beginnings. We Bless Their Memory.

By Gudrun Maxson Sveinbjornson

STEPHAN MAXSON

This Hudson Bay land, NW8-37-2-5 and NW5-37-2-5, was bought by Steve Maxson in 1920. He married Laura Johansson in 1926 and both being interested in horticulture built up a fine farmstead and lived there until retirement to Innisfail due to ill health. They had one son Victor who married Pat Hazlett and lives in Cassiar, B.C., working for the Asbestos Mines. They have four girls. Jean, Lorraine, Goodie and Anna. Mr. & Mrs. Art Stangness came in 1960 and have kept up the beautiful grounds. They have one son Gary married to Sheila Robertson and two grandchildren Colin and Kathy.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES McGOWAN NW33-37-2-5

This C.P.R. quarter was owned by C.G. Hunter, an American who had bought land for speculation. Charles McGowan and his wife and four children, Ted, Helen, Mollie and Heather came from Saskatchewan and the first buildings were put up. When they moved to Red Deer, Jack and Edythe Groves and family, Judy, Glen and Susan came from Strathmore. Edythe Groves has had selections in the Alberta Poetry Book for several years and is known for her homey verses. The family returned to farming at Strathmore and Edythe has put two volumes into print, "Yarns for Spinning Thoughts" and "Funny Bones". The Groves were succeeded by Mr. & Mrs. Lester Glen and family, Gerald, Arlene, Marilyn and Judy.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES G. MILLER as told by Mrs. Inga Miller

Charlie was born at Langdon and came to this district in 1918. In 1930 he moved to the farm where

we now live, with his family. His father rented the place till 1940 when Charlie and I were married. We rented for two years then bought it in 1942 for \$2,500 and \$500 down. A lot of money to us at that time. We bought from a man in the U.S. called Joseph Olson.

I was formerly Inga Thorsen of the Tindastoll district. I was born in Port Angeles Washington U.S.A. and came to the Tindastoll district in 1919. My father told me we drove out to the farm on May 19 through 2 ft. of snow.

We were married on Nov. 10th. It was 25 below zero that day and went down to 40 below that night. We left on our honeymoon in Charlie's '32 Pontiac Coupe and between Bowden and Olds we knocked a rod out but managed to get to Olds.

We raised four children all born in Innisfail. Lorna Jean married Walter Befus of Stettler and at present make their home at Spruce Grove. They have five children Carolyn, Deloras, Darlene, Janice, and Valerie. Joyce taught school at Spruce View for six years. She married Jerry Johansson and they live on the farm originally owned by his Uncle Dori Johansson, which is 1-1/2 miles north of us.



Charlie Miller seeding — 1943.

Gerald lives on a farm joining us on the east which he bought in 1967. He married Margaret Simpson of Innisfail. They have one daughter Lee.

Petrea works in Surrey, B.C. at present as a secretary.

We later added 2 quarters to our farm, one joining us on the south known as the Baldwin place. The other across the road to the north of us was owned by a Mr. Kelly. After World War I. Mr. Sid Johnson purchased it and lived and raised his family there till 1943 when he went to the coast. Mr. & Mrs. Sam Pohl and son Ed bought the place and lived there for several years. In 1961 Ken Bowman bought it and we purchased it from him the next spring.

Our home quarter NW32-36, is one of the oldest farms in the district. The first person who owned it was Tom Smith, who built at least part of the house, as we found some papers with his name on the walls. He sold in 1910 to Mr. O.H. Rouki who lived with Baldwins till Baldwins built a new log house on the south quarter and moved there. Around 1915 a family named Shick farmed it. Their son was drowned in the spring run off, chasing horses. Eldo Flake remembers opening the gate for him but the horses turned back and he was not seen again.

The flat was nearly all covered with water. In 1918 John Neilsen farmed it. His son Orla lives in the Diamond Valley District. Later a family named Kivet farmed it and Bliss Kirkpatrick lived in the same house for a while till they built on their place. The house was built so two families could live separately. It was later farmed by Kunicks.

A family by the name of Nichols and another named Bjornson spent short periods of time on the place.

Charlie had the Red Head Gas and Oil business through the Innisfail agency in the 1940's. He also did custom grinding for local farmers during the War years.

Charlie remembers as a young man, walking behind the team and wagon to keep warm on winter trips to or from Benalto. Grain or pigs were sold and coal and groceries were brought back, or he rode many miles by horseback to collect milk cows for the morning milking session.

It is understood that the Gerald Miller quarter SW32-37-2-5 was first a C.P.R. or Hudson Bay quarter. Mr. & Mrs. Tom Jensen had emigrated from Denmark and were the first to build farm buildings on the place. Their family included Helgi, Elie, Johannes, Chris, Mads, Jens and Anker. Anker Jensen went from this district and was killed in action in the Second World War; Helgi Jensen married Alma Miller and lives at Okotoks; Elie was a registered nurse; Johannes married Joyce Kirk whose mother and brother lived later on this land and were succeeded by Bill and Iris Eliuk who later established a garage business in Eckville. In 1969 Gerald Miller purchased this place from Ken Bowman.

MR. & MRS ROY MILLER

According to the pioneer map of homesteads this quarter SE5-37-2-5 was first owned by George Masters. Later a bachelor Harry Andresen lived here. He was a carpenter and painter. With his retirement to Spruce View, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Miller settled there with their family, Marilyn, Warren and Wendell. Warren married Vivian Gueguen and has his residence at this place. Roy and Warren also farm NW-SW and SE3-37-2-5. Warren and Vivian have a daughter Tammy; Wendell the younger son works on oil rigs; Marilyn is artistic and stays at home.

GEORGE MILNE

George Milne came from Manitoba in 1903 and homesteaded NE14-37-2-5 which is considered some of the best land in the municipality. He built a little low log house. In 1914 he had a contractor build one of the finest houses in the community at that time. This structure still stands, a fine monument to the architecture of that day. He raised sheep and the farm was well fenced. The wool was put to good use by his wife who also had flocks of chickens and turkeys. She was a needlewoman of great ability and among her many quilts the pieced Yo-Yo design is still remembered. Mr. & Mrs. Milne had three children. Marion and Grace became teachers and each taught HOLA school for a time. Grace's husband, Thorn Hawkins, also taught there. Walter Milne farmed the Johnny

Benediction homestead in the township east. A lovely row of trees on this place serves as a memorial to Walter who planted them.

In poor health Mr. Milne died suddenly and Grace and her husband came to be with her. George had planted spruce on the grounds and when Thorn Hawkins lived there he further planted many trees, shrubs and peonies from the Lacombe Experimental Station where he worked. Renters in the house later included Mr. & Mrs. Hendricks and family who retired to Red Deer to look after the golf course. They were succeeded by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Walker. Mrs. Walker was the former Lily Stuart of the Jock Stuart Family of Markerville. Fred was in the commercial grain cleaning business.

In 1946 the Milne farm was bought by Harry Hansen of Lacombe where he had resided since 1900. His wife was Thora, daughter of Peter Thompson, one of the early settlers in the Markerville area and four and a half years old when she arrived.

Harry renovated the house, painting and siding the front porch and modernizing the two storied dwelling. This gracious couple married late in life, farmed the lands and finally rented them out to neighbors. Harry enjoyed hunting and fishing, and Thora, an accomplished handicrafter, kept busy with her many skills. Together they kept lovely grounds, with flowers and gardens. Harry passed away in 1967 one morning at home. Thora sold to Mrs. Dorothy Anderson and her aged father and retired to Spruce View. The land is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Murray and family.

EDWARD AND ANNA MOXNESS

In 1937 Edward Moxness helped Ralph Youngstrom move from Saskatchewan to this district. In 1945 Ed married Anna Hillman and bought the C.P.R. quarter NE15-37-2-5 where they made their home with their family. Edna, Starr, Bruce (lost in infancy), Barry, Gail and Betty. In previous years Ed had worked for Pete Johannson and Erik Charlson in particular.

In 1972 Edward and Anna moved to Penhold and Mr. & Mrs. Andre Chaumont and family are on this land. She is the great grand-daughter of Stephan G. Stephanson. Andre is a highly qualified mechanic.

ROBERT NICHOLSON

SW2-37-2-5 was one of the first homesteads and was filed on by pioneer Robert Nicholson. The mother was left a widow to raise the family of Lizzie, Maisie, Clive, Eva, Alma, Bob and George and had many hardships to meet. There are no landmarks left of the home but the father was buried on the bank of the Medicine River and there is a picket fence and stone head piece and spruce trees marking the spot. The Peter Thompson children walked through the yard on the way to Hola School and friendships have continued through the years. Mention is made of an old swimming hole in the creek there where the school children loved to go.

Later John Anderson (Dave Anderson's brother) owned the land and was followed by Frank C. Berke

engineer in the Herald Bldg., Calgary from 1921 to when he retired at age of 80. The Berke children, Clara, Herbert, Dorothy, Billy and Frankie went to Hola school and are well remembered. The place is now owned by Jim Robertson.

GEORGE NICHOLSON SW13-37-2-5

George Nicholson was the first to live on this quarter which belonged to the C.P.R. He married Carrie Anderson of Burnt Lake and sold in 1950 to Emmanuel Schaber. Mr. and Mrs. Schaber had a fine large family including two sets of twins. They moved to farm in the vicinity of Lacombe and the land was bought by Kris Johnson.

JOHN OLSEN as related by daughter Mrs. Peter Johannson

John Olsen was born in Reykjavik on May 22nd 1878. He was the son of a Danish baker from Copenhagen. His mother was Icelandic and his grandmother came from the same part of Iceland as Jonas Hunford. He and his mother came to Argyle, Manitoba, where she married again. In 1901 John homesteaded SW22-37-2-5. He married Runa Sigurdson. John Olsen was a man of many parts. Self-educated, a good carpenter and handy at all tasks. He was musical, poetic and community minded. Member of Markerville Brass Band, Woodman of the World, Good Templar, School Board and Library board. Councillor in the municipality and road foreman.

His widow survived him many years, living with her eldest daughter, Regina (Mrs. Peter Johannson of Tindastoll). In those late years she enjoyed a trip home to Iceland and trips to various parts of Canada visiting friends and relatives. It was fitting that this pioneer lady should enjoy these after her many years of toil.

Besides Regina the family included Hannah (Mrs. Ben Dolphin) who passed away in 1945 at the age of thirty-six; Kristin is Mrs. J. Mueller of Olds and Fred and Kari in the Hola area.

FRED OLSEN NE21-37-2-5

Fred, the oldest son of pioneer John Olsen, married Margaret Rempel and there were; Shirley (Mrs. Lyle Boyd). Robert married Shirlene Amundson; Elaine (Mrs. Ed Nozak). Spencer (Gail Metzger), Shane and Raymond. Mrs. Fred Olsen and Raymond make their home in B.C.

With Fred's retirement to Innisfail his son lives on the place. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Olsen have Kim, Jeff and Sandra.

KARI OLSEN

Kari Olsen, the second son, married Audrey Hanna. Their family attended Centreville School. John, the oldest son of Kari married Laura Wecker and lives on the same place near Kari and Audrey. Laura and John have two children John, Betty. Peter, married to Bonnie Wecker lives in Red Deer and have Don, Wanda and Mike. Karen (Mrs. Bill Champ) has Garth, Leora, Leanne and Kari. Leonard was killed in a tragic road accident in 1972. Jim married Linda Rosinki. Connie (Mrs. Bernie Enghoi) with Bev and Sandra. Steve and Corinne.

THEODOR ONSUM

Theodor Onsum homesteaded N1/2-1-37-2-5. The next owner we know was a bachelor by the name of Boyer who had his sister Mrs. Creary keeping house for him. Bert Thompson and his brother-in-law Les Johnston were next in ownership with Burt's buying out Les' share eventually. Harvey Snell rented for a while and then a Mr. Black bought the place and after a few years sold it to Mr. Ralph Youngstrom from Saskatchewan, and moved to Caroline. Mrs. Youngstrom (Alice to all) was a helping hand in the community and much loved by all. She died in 1963 and her name is enshrined in the A.W.I. Book of Remembrance. They had three daughters, Mrs. Roger (Pearl) Nelson of Innisfail, Mrs. James (Doreen) Fisher of Rocky Mt. House, Mrs. Robt. (Dolores) Dye of Penhold. Mr. Youngstrom sold the land to Emil Hehr.

ARNI PALSSON

Arni Palsson and his mother arrived in the era 1890-1900 as a young man and homesteaded NW34-37-2-W5. After the death of his mother he was left to look after her friend Ranka, her daughter and grand daughters. Arni was quite well educated and for 25 years served Hola School No. 394 as secretary treasurer and it is due to him and his management of the affairs of the district that the ratepayers felt proud of the record that during the hungry thirties all teachers received above minimum wage, and that when Rocky School Division took over, wages in this school were the 3rd highest of any of the 70 schools.

When he died his land was bought by A. (Sandy) Fraser. Sandy was married to Eva Corsiatto, one of the teachers of Hola and remodelled the Palsson house.

Eva passed away in 1965. Sandy has since remarried and he and Wyn have expanded their holdings and still live on the Palsson homestead.

NELS PETERSEN

NW14-37-2-W5 was homesteaded by Nels Petersen who went back to Sweden about 1911. The south quarter SW14-37-2-5 was homesteaded by Sam Einarson who had an adopted son Gisli who attended Hola School in the early days. He was a bright scholar and speaker, later gaining his B.Sc. at the University. The brother of George Milne also lived there at one time. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kessel and family bought the half section. They had three daughters and two sons, Lily (Mrs. Emil Hehr), Emma of Chicago, Ella of Didsbury, Ronald of Calgary and Edward of Red Deer. Mrs. Kessel died while the children were still in public school and later Mr. Kessel married Mrs. Tena Brown. There was a daughter Clara. Mr. Kessel retired to Red Deer and was succeeded on the place by Lloyd Youngstrom and Edward Kessel. The place then was sold and resold, to Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Gant and sons who left for Oregon, to Mr. and Mrs. Krossa who left to go to Rimbey after three years and it is believed the present owner is in Bowden. The north quarter has been owned the last few years by Bernie Bystrom.

PINE HILL COLONY SW4-37-2-5

The Hutterite Brethren of Pine Hill Colony in recent years bought this quarter from McQueen Smith. This Hudson Bay quarter was originally bought by Frost Christennson and sold to Mr. & Mrs. Einar Thomsen and their family William and Mary. Mr. & Mrs. McQueen Smith developed a small strawberry business with local outlet whilst there.

BILL SCOTT

Bill Scott came from Nebraska and homesteaded NW2-37-2-5 in 1900. He brought a herd of horses and was, for that era, quite well established by 1902. There was a large family of seven boys and one girl, Christie, Rueben, George, Roy, Lindy, Charles, Les and Vern. Earlier a little girl, Bertha died. It is remembered that Mrs. Peter Thompson, a kindly neighbor made a wreath of white anemones from the woods to put on the little coffin. After a time Mrs. Scott and her second boy George took the three little boys and left for the States. Christie kept house for her father and the bigger boys, Rueben, Roy and Lindy. Mr. Scott was a hunter and a fisherman. He lived to a ripe old age, farming on the homestead. His older sons settled in Ridgewood and Evarts area. Christie married Mayberry from Ridgewood and made her home in U.S.A. returning to visit Canada occasionally.

The Scott children of course attended Hola. There was considerable settlement on the west side of the river, and a swinging walking bridge was built across the river. Mr. W.L. (Bill) Scott took the contract to do this and it was so well built that it was in use for over 20 years when the traffic bridge was built by the government.

The land was bought by Mr. and Mrs. August Seifried. Mrs. Seifried is the daughter of Baldur Stephanson and the granddaughter of Stephan G. On retiring to Markerville they sold to Emil and Dale Hehr.

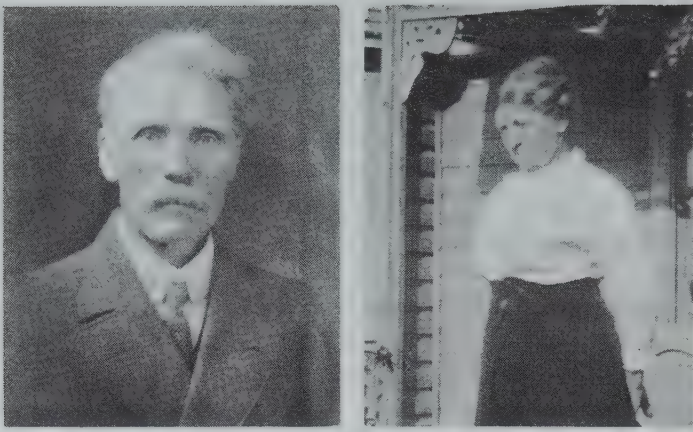
THE STEPHAN G. STEPHANSON FAMILY

Baldur — married Sigurlena Bardal. They were one of the first couples to be married at the home by the Icelandic minister, Rev. Peter Hjalmsson. Family: Cecil married Fretha Stewart. Hrefna married F. Mottl. Gestur died as a youth. Lilja married August Seifreid. Jacobena married Jonas Hunford.

Stephan Gudmundur (Mundi married Regina Strong. He was in partnership with John Benedictson in operating a general store in Markerville, also telephone exchange. Later he operated a butcher shop in Innisfail, after being in the dray and transport business. Family: Helga, married to John Bergdal of Red Deer; Stephan Jon who resides in Calgary; Florence now Mrs. John Ockota; Ethel, Mrs. Ronald Rawlinson of Emmett, Idaho, U.S.A.; Edwin married Margaret Stewart, Three Hills; Emilie, Mrs. Thomas Good child; Wilfred and Lorne.

Jacob. Bachelor on the homestead till his death.

Stephanie (Fanny) and Jony (Jennie) were twins. Fanny married Arni Bardal and had one son Gestur. Jennie married Siggi Sigurdson and had one daughter Edna.



Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Stephansson.

Gestur was killed by lightning at 16 years.

Rosa attended the first years of Olds Agricultural School; married Siggi Benediktson. Was honored by Iceland in later years as daughter of Stephan G. Stephansson. Family; Iris, Stephan, Conrad and Theodor.

When Stephan G. Stephansson died, his son Jake farmed the land. He was assisted by Edwin (son of Mundi) who married Margaret Stewart granddaughter of Jonas Hunford. After Jake died, Edwin continued on the Stephansson homestead. His wife died in 1970. Their children were: Marilyn, a registered nurse, married Jim Scott of Rimbey and has two sons; Nancy, a radiology technician, married Monty Bryant and lives in Calgary; Diane who passed away suddenly at age of seven; and Mindy, who married Donna Auld and is now employed as an engineer in Red Deer.

"Many years ago Stephan G. Stephansson (Poet) settler in Hola gave expression to a thought that is timeless and of world import. "Think not in years, But in ages." meaning that he who thinks in ages doesn't think in regions, in states, in dynasties. This thought is the embodiment of more than an Icelandic mind, more than a Canadian mind, truly a universal mind. It is to be hoped that Canadians of Icelandic descent, as they make their ample contribution to the Canadian structure, will not forget but continually remind themselves of the distinctive characteristics of the Icelandic mind epitomized in both their ancient and modern directives to themselves." Excerpt from Icelandic Paper, Logberg-Heimskingla 1968.

"He brooks no blemish in himself"

Give strength to our people.

Diminish their fears.

On their course to a Kingdom of God.

Think not in years but in ages."

Stephan G. Stephansson

STEPHAN G. STEPHANSON HOMESTEAD from excerpts in the Icelandic Almanacs as written by Jonas J. Hunford.

Stephan G. Stephansson was born Oct. 3rd 1850 in Iceland of poor parents. His early education was scant — reading, writing and some mathematics, but later he eagerly learned Danish and English. At the age of 19 he and his sister Sigurlaug came with their parents to Wisconsin, U.S.A. then to North Dakota. In 1889 he emigrated to Alberta with his wife Helga, three sons and his mother who homesteaded SE10-37-2-5. He was one of the leading men of the new district and took an active part in organizing the building of the first school in the area, establishing a post office and starting the first creamery.

Stephan G. had at least six volumes of Icelandic poetry. "Andvokur" meaning "Sleeplessness" was published before his death. In 1917 in recognition of his talent, the Icelandic Government received him as guest. Posthumously he was named "Poet Laureate" of his country.

Certain mementos (pictures, books and a chair) are preserved in a museum in Winnipeg. His grave is in the family cemetery on the Christinnson farm where a cairn of local rocks was erected in 1939. A second cenotaph is in the Stephan G. Memorial Park in Markerville administered by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. He was further honored in 1953 in his home country with his youngest daughter Rosa unveiling a tribute to his memory.

In later years Helga his wife was honored by the Icelandic Government as "First Lady of Iceland".

JON JONSSON STRONG

John Strong and his wife were married in Iceland in 1872 and in 1884 emigrated to America.

After short periods in Ontario, Winnipeg, North Dakota he finally came west to Calgary in 1889 and homesteaded in this area, NE34-37-2-5. He had a very real talent of his own in carpentry and cabinet making, skills which he developed in himself. Tomb-



Premier of Iceland — Bjarni Benediktson, laying wreath at cenotaph of Stephan G. Stephansson — 1964.

stones made of sandstone in the Tindastoll cemetery testify to this. He made coffins to order. The fancy curlicues on the old houses mark some of his work. At home in Iceland he had worked with iron. In the new land he could more readily acquire the material. It is said he made his own skates and was an expert on them as an older man. The house he built on the homestead was one of the better types in the community. He made chairs, tables and desks.

John and Helga had a family of one son, Jon married to Annie Sveinson, and 5 daughters Regina (Mrs. Mundi Stephanson); Lena (Mrs. John Benedictson); Bena, Millie and Emily.

Joe Johnson next lived on this homestead with his wife Hannah Christenson and his son and daughter by a second marriage. He was followed by Ernest Walker who sold to John Thompson. After a year Mr. & Mrs. Robert Richmond bought the land. They had a daughter Heather who attended Spruce View School and was an amateur writer. The Richmonds sold to Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Smith (1961). Family — Harvey, Anita, Louise, Marlene and Wendell. Mr. Smith is now in Red Deer Nursing Home. Mrs. Smith remains on the farm renting the land to Jim Robertson.

A. THORLAKSON

SE17-37-2-5 was homesteaded by A. Thorlakson who had one daughter Fanny. The site of the shack on top of the hill is still visible. John Sveinson acquired the land and later sold to Svein Maxson.

G. THORLAKSON

Gudmunder Thorlakson came by mixed human and cattle boat to Canada from Iceland in 1887 and homesteaded SE20-7-2-5. In 1888 he married Gubjorg Bjornson. Of three children born, only Bjorn reached adulthood. G. Thorlakson played an important part in many local projects: organizing the Hola School district and building the first school which served also as a dance hall for the young people and a meeting and church place for all; served as trustee for 25 years; was very active in organizing the Markerville Tindastoll Butter and Cheese Association, the Icelandic Literary Society, Good Templars Lodge and any community project.

Bjorn Thorlakson was born in 1893 in a sod house, attended Hola school and was married in 1913 to Haldora Sveinbjornson. In 1964 Bjorn and Dora visited Iceland. Their family consisted of 4 boys and 6 girls. One boy Mundi was drowned at the Hola bridge.

Gudbjorn married Katie Freylinger and raised 2 sons.

Thora married Paul Tennant and had 2 sons and 2 daughters, and upon his death married Del Shanks and had 1 daughter.

Jorunn (Joan) married Ralph Hart, 2 sons and 2 daughters. (Now married to Frank Vandaele.)

Dorothy married Otto Zimmerman, 3 daughters and 1 son. She (Dorothy) passed away in 1973.

Alice married Leonard Heinsen, 1 daughter and 1 son.

Marion married Donald Bain, 3 daughters.

Iris married Bill Eliuk, 4 sons and 1 daughter.

Steini and Allan the younger sons carry on having added to the holdings. NW16-37-2-W5 (G.S. Grimson place); SW21-37-2-W5, C.P.R. land; NE17-37-2-W5 C.P.R. land.



Home of Stephan Stephansson.



John Hillman in front of his parents' home — 1913.



Sadie Innes raking hay.



Happy Hill school children, 1935. Teacher — S. McCrimmon.



Markerville school children, 1910. Teacher — Miss Katie Wilson.



Craig school boys — 1927. Teacher — Irene Bigelow.



Hola school children — 1927.



Heckla school children.



North Raven school children.



New Hill School class of 1918.



Rich Hill school children — 1917.



Spruce View school children — about 1928.



Red Raven school pupils — 1937.



First wood sawing outfit in Kevissville about 1912.



L. to R.: Lawrence Petersen, Nels Lind, Aage Knudsen, Jens Norre, Andy Andersen, John Thompson, Soren Norre.



Splitting wood. Elmer Nelson and hired man. Edna and Karen Nash.



Rudolf Lundgren hauling rails to Innisfail.



Logging on Chris Andersen's at Red Raven — 1919.



Mr. Neal hauling posts — Raven.



Road building — John and Elmer Nelson, Harold Hjorth.



Sawmill at Raven.



Ploughing at Montgomery's, Amanda walking.



The Budvarsons building a barn at New Hill.



Mr. Holroyd digging the basement with team and slip.



Brush piling at Hindbo's — 1936.



R. Lundgren breaking sod with six horse team, a colt and a walking plow.



Bill Montgomery's threshing outfit.



Cyrus Clay.



Nelson Bros. haying outfit.



George Flake. Binder trouble?



Hunting among the stooks at North Raven.



Markerville Soccer Team — 1906. Back Row: W. Hanson, Bill Johnson, Eligh Monteith, Bert Thompson, Mindy Thorsteinson. Middle Row: Frost Christinnson, Marvin Thompson, (unidentified). Front Row: Mindy Stephansen, Leslie Johnston, Joe Johnson.



Back: Mark McKain, Jack Shannon, Buck and Cecil McKain, Morris Robb, Louis Shannon, Ray McKain, Tom and Bob Shannon — 1936.



Red Raven Sunday School — 1936.



Yankee Flats Girls' Ball team — Mary and Florence Baldwin, Amanda Martin, Thora Thompson, Edith Anderson, Merle and Mary Baker, Karen and Ellen Schmidt.



Independent Order of Good Templars, 1906.



Gundesen family — 1904. Father, Helena, Christina, Elsa, Christian, Dagny and Mother.



Th. Thomsen family.



Spring floodwaters at New Hill. Henry Linneberg and family.



Baynham homestead.



J. M. Johnson homestead (present site of Markerville hamlet). Flake's horses watering in Medicine River.



Markerville Creamery — 1908.



Cecil Andrews and Dad Davies.



Elmer Nelson and friends on Medicine bridge (on Hwy. 54)
— 1920.



Turkey picking bee at Craig.



Pioneer home at Rich Hill — Mr. and Mrs. W. Fifield,
Norman and Gardner Craig.



70th anniversary of "Vonin".



Edwin Hansen going to school.



Mrs. Griffin driving Cyrus Jensen's team.



Raft on the Medicine River.



Elza and Eli Cave, local musicians.



Darlene Innes drowning gophers.



John Holmgren's homestead.



Pioneer days at Red Raven.



"Bennett Buggy" days at Lundgrens.



Dan Morkerberg's 80th birthday celebration — 1953.



Haying the hard way. Harvey Berry, Darlene Innes.



Bensons' — Allan, Ralph, Retha, Gretta and Earl.



Branding. Eli, Ken, Vern Cave and Lloyd Innes.



New Hill Ladies' Club.



Miller family — Thelma, Eunice, Roy, Charles, Alma, Frank and Duey, and Mother.



Eric Knight and Bill Montgomery Jr., Raven.



Cattle at Red Raven.



The Flake Family, Louise and Iola Sveinson, Florence Whiteside (Markerville teacher).



Trucker — Mac Hansen.



Mr. and Mrs. Elza Cave.



Andy Christensen in trouble.



Moving grain the hard way.

MARKERVILLE

BY CARL MORKEBERG

The history of the Icelandic community of Markerville beginning in 1888. The first settlers arrived here in June of that year after coming by train from Pembina County, North Dakota. There was no rail road from Calgary to Edmonton as yet and it was three years before it finally came to reality.

They had to make the trip by horse and wagon and pouring rain was their constant companion almost every foot of the way. There were 12 families in this first group that came in 1888 and included amongst the 50 people were three single men. In 1899 twenty-one more families arrived and included in this group was the famous poet S.G. Stephanson.

The first Post Office was called Casche City. It was not an official P.O. but was an unofficial mail drop. It served the purpose more or less satisfactorily for several years. This mail drop was operated by a man by the name of L.M. Sage who was a colorful character and was a big help to the early Icelanders who were not endowed with very much in the line of worldly goods.



Main Street Markerville — 1910: Benediktson store, G. E. Johnson store, Fensala Hall, G. E. Johnson's house. Across street: John and Bill Johnson store "The Owl".

The second postmaster was an Icelander by the name of Johann Bjornson, who was also the mail carrier. Once a week he made the trip to Poplar Grove which was the name of Innisfail at that time. The name of the first P.O. was Tindastoll. This was the name of a community in Iceland where some of the early settlers hailed from.

There was no such thing as roads or bridges in those first lean years. There was no such thing as money either except in very minute quantities. Rabbits, fish, prairie chicken and partridge were the diet of those early pioneers.

After the turn of the century in the winter of 1901-02 a bridge was put across the Medicine river at Markerville and also across the Red Deer west of Innisfail. The new creamery was constructed replacing the old building which was made of logs and with a sod roof over the boiler room.

The Dominion Government purchased the two small cheese factories that were operating at that time and financed the construction of the new creamery.



Washing wool at the Medicine — Mrs. Chris Johannson, Mrs. Albert Johannson, and Mrs. R. Freeman.



First Markerville creamery — 1899: C. P. Marker, Dairy Commissioner of N.W. Territories (on right), C. P. Nairn.

The man responsible for this was C.P. Marker who was Dairy Commissioner for the N.W.T. and in his honor they named the new community Markerville. In 1899, when my father came here to take over the operation of the old creamery there were 35 families west of the Red Deer river, 33 of them were Icelanders. The two exceptions were Geo. Spurgeon who operated a horse ranch on the Medicine flats four miles straight south of Markerville and Bob Shannon who ran 400 head of cattle on land that he squatted on along the Raven river.

The country west of Markerville rapidly filled up with American homesteaders after the two bridges



Markerville Meat Market.

were built. In fact it was so predominantly American that it was called Yankee Flats for many years.

The Dickson district was settled by Danes early in the century and the New Hill district was settled by Swedes soon after. This gave Markerville quite a large trading area to draw from early in the century and the fact that it had the only creamery west of the Red Deer river made Markerville a popular trading centre.

In the 85 years that have passed since the first Icelanders arrived many changes have taken place. In the early years Icelandic was the predominate language and would be heard on every side. Now it is rarely heard. Having been born in Markerville almost 70 years ago and having spent most of my life here I would like to say this in closing. Life in an Icelandic settlement has been to me a very rewarding experience. Not that I became rich, but the good neighbors and friends over the years is something that money cannot buy.



Picnic at Spurgeon Bridge.

MARKERVILLE ICELANDIC LADIES AID (VONIN) written by Rosa Benediktson

In 1888-89, groups of Icelandic families arrived in Calgary, most came from North Dakota. Their idea was to settle in the area west of the Red Deer River. Calgary was the terminus of the railway and the homesteads were one hundred miles north west of the city. It was a point where the Icelanders could get ready for their pilgrimage into the wilderness. The men went ahead, leaving their families in Calgary, while they found places for them to live.

It was during this time that the women joined together and formed the Ladies Aid. No doubt they felt the need of social contact and could accomplish more by organizing. By 1895 most of the group had dispersed to the new settlement.

They called this Ladies Aid "Vonin", which in Icelandic means "Hope". First President was Mrs. S. Christinson, Mrs. H. Goodman was chosen Secretary and Mrs. S. Bardal, Treasurer. A code of rules was drawn up, which incidentally have been adhered to, in general principles to this day. Basically the chief aims were: 1. To help the ailing and the needy. 2. To support efforts for the religious education of young people. 3. To give support to the church particularly the Lutheran.

In June 1912 there were twenty members. There are now nine active members. Freda Olson President; Lilyan Johannson, Treasurer; Rosa Benediktson, Secretary. It is unique that the minutes are still being written in Icelandic, and that this organization is still active after more than eighty years in operation. In order to raise funds for their charitable work and enterprizes, two social functions were held. It could be a Box, Pie or Shadow Social, or Cake Cutting contest. Twice, cards were sent out with a small bag attached and a little verse requesting that for admission fee you put in as many cents as the years you had lived. In the fall there was a Tombola, or Bazaar. Members sewed and contributed articles as did non-members. A person received a free draw with the admission. Extra draws were 25 cents. This was very popular, especially with the young people.

The Aid did their share in contributing to the social needs of the community. First in the old log school at Hola, later in Fensala Hall Markerville. The meetings at members homes were enjoyed by everyone involved, there are many pleasant memories of these occasions. There was an Icelandic Celebration in the form of a picnic every year and the Ladies Aid always had charge of the refreshment Booth. Every function wound up with a rollicking dance. In later years when members were less active, their funds were raised by raffles.

The upkeep of the Lutheran Church was of concern to members. They instituted the Cemetery Clean-up Day, which bore very good results. A gate for the Cemetery and signs for the Hall and Church have been erected for posterity. In all their undertakings the Ladies Aid (Vonin) have had wonderful support and co-operation from the community, without which their labors would have been in vain.

We like to think that the small rays of "Hope" which we have been able to give to humanity along lifes highway, have been inspired by that small group of courageous women in Calgary and for this and all other blessings we are sincerely grateful.

MARKERVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH by Phyllis Johannson

The church was built in 1907 by a group of Icelanders, work all donated. John Olsen, Asmundur Christianson, John Hillman, Chris Johannson,



Markerville church.

Gunlauger Stephenson, Alijon Christvinson and the Icelanders living around here, donated their time. Some hauled the stones from the Red Deer River for the foundation, which is still in excellent repair. Some hauled lumber from Innisfail.

Rev. Peter Hjalmssohn was the first minister and his wife Jonina played the organ. They were here until 1935. Mr. Hjalmssohn performed all the weddings and baptisms during this period. He held confirmation classes whenever there were enough teenagers to make a class. He held these at his home every Saturday morning. Mrs. Hjalmssohn gave them dinner and then another hour's instruction. Confirmation service would be held at Easter time. This was a great occasion. (See Hjalmssohn.)

MARKERVILLE GOODNEIGHBORS

The Good Neighbor club was started in January 1935 when some fifteen ladies met at the Morkeberg farm for the purpose of forming a ladies community club. Since most of the members had young children the decision was to hold the meetings in the evening so that the fathers could baby sit. Some first officers were President Mrs. Dave Anderson, Sec.-Treasurer Miss Florence Whiteside.

Right from the start the club has been very active in community affairs as well as donating to many worthwhile causes. These included donating to the Red Cross, Cancer and Blind.

During the war years we sent many parcels to the boys over seas. At Christmas time these parcels always contained fruit cakes which we baked and sealed in tin cans to insure their safe arrival.

From the time the girls 4H club was started we have been its sponsor. We are very proud of our girls who have won many awards.

Many and varied have been our means of raising money for our work. One of our first endeavors was a masquerade and dance in the spring of 1935. By charging the huge sum of 25 cents for men and also for women if they didn't bring lunch we were able to raise nearly 100 dollars. Of course our orchestra charged 20 dollars.

During the forties we put on plays, thus combining fun with money raising. We took plays to Caroline, Benalto, Sylvan Lake, Penhold and Innisfail. How many young people today would drive in the back of a truck, in the middle of winter, just to put on a play?

In 1952 we found another way of raising money. This was catering for weddings. Since that time we have catered to over 55 weddings, going to Rocky Mountain House, Bentley, Red Deer, Innisfail, Dickson and Spruce View.

In 1960 we celebrated our 25th birthday with a banquet and social evening to which we invited our husbands and all ex-members. At that time we honored 5 members who had been with the club since it had started.

In 1938 our membership dwindled to 7 but this wasn't for long and today we have 27 active members. Four of these members have been with the club since it was formed. They are Marion Morkeberg, Iola Sveinson, Violet Sveinson and Phyllis Johannson.



Back Row: Mrs. Ellen Jensen and Chris, Georgina Bjornson, Mrs. Dave Anderson and Norma, Mrs. Margaret (G) Johnson, Mrs. Katie Johnson, unknown. Front: Violet Sveinson and Allan, Mabel Thompson, Annie Johnson, Inga Johnston, Mrs. Marjorie McLean and Dora Johnston.

HISTORY OF THE MARKERVILLE 4H CLUB

The Alberta Junior Girls Club was first organized under the Dept. of Agriculture on Sept. 8th, 1946 using the name TIP TOP TEENERS. Clothing was their first project. They had 17 members with Miss Margaret Sveinson as their leader, and Mrs. Grace Mewha as assistant leader. Norma Moyer was President, Doreen Olson Vice-President, Lois Jensen Secretary, Doreen Walker Treasurer. Miss Beatrice Smith was Dis. Home Ec. Miss Margaret Frazer was Supervisor for Girls Clubs in Edmonton and helped to organize them.

In the Spring of 1947 a Garden Club was formed. Norma Moyer went to Bozeman, Montana to attend a 4-H Conference in the summer. The same year Norma Moyer and Karen Thompson represented Alberta at the National Competitions in Toronto. They were the first two girls from the Club awarded this trip but there were many others to follow. In 1951, a Club called the Jolly Juniors was formed for the girls between the ages of eight and twelve years. They carried on with sewing and gardening like the older girls. Mrs. B. Smith and Mrs. H. Price were leaders for sewing and Mrs. R. Youngstrom for gardening. Miss B. Smith was Dist. Home Economist.

Dana Morkeberg and Marjery Johannson of the senior girls won a trip to Toronto in 1951 for Food Competition. Dana was elected President of the Junior Council. This was the first time in the 21 years of the Girls and Boys Clubs that a girl had held this position. In 1952 the Alberta Club was changed to 4-H. To this date there have been 123 girls in the Markerville 4-H Club in the Clothing, Gardening and Food Projects.

NATIONAL AWARD TRIPS: 1947 Toronto, Ontario - Norma Moyer, Karen Thompson. 1947 Bozeman, Montana, U.S.A. - Norma Moyer. 1951 Toronto, Ontario - Dana Morkeberg, Margery Johannson. 1955 Toronto, Ontario - Marie Johannson, Mary Smith, Shirley Johannson. 1958 Toronto, Ontario - Priscilla Mewha, Grace Einarson. Bozeman, Montana - Eileen Symanek (New Hill 4-H). 1959 Bozeman, Montana - Bette Johnson. 1960 Toronto, Ontario - Eileen Goedicke. 1961 Toronto, Ontario - Donna Johannson. Interprovincial trip to

Ontario - Joyce Anderson. 1962 Exchange trip to Nova Scotia - Bernice Johansson. 1967 Exchange delegate to Hamilton, Montana - Maureen Eirikson.

We are all proud of our Markerville 4-H's for bringing so much recognition to our community. The girls are still busy although now we just have the Clothing project. The girls are active in their curling, dances, barbecues, public speaking, the yearly donation of stuffed toys at Christmas to a Children's Home and a donation to the Crippled children for the summer camps. Their annual stew supper is the highlight of the year and is supported wholeheartedly by the community. In the summer you can see the Markerville 4-H Floats in the surrounding Parades.

THE MARKERVILLE MEMORIAL CURLING RINK by Clifford R. Gremm

On Feb. 1st 1946 a general meeting was held in Markerville to discuss a suitable Memorial for the men of this district who lost their lives in the 1939-1945 World War - namely Alfred Anderson, Max Gaetz, Anker Jensen and Robert Johnson. It was agreed that a curling rink would be built, and that it would be called the "Markerville Memorial Curling Rink."

On March 5th, 1947 at a public meeting in the Fensala Hall, a total of \$775.00 was pledged by twenty people. Eventually \$1445.00 was collected from 53 families. All the labor for the project was donated except for one head carpenter, Carl G. Christensen, who was paid \$210.95. The total cost of the material used was \$1882.87, besides donations. 14 people each purchased a set of rocks which were left at the rink for everyone to use. These rocks were purchased from Biggar, Sask. They cost us, with freight, \$36.21 per pair. We were able to borrow two more sets to complete our two sheets of ice. Fees were set at \$8.00 per season for men, \$4.00 for ladies and students. For a few years, a reduced price was offered for persons residing more than four miles from Markerville. In spite of rising costs of operation this \$8.00 and \$4.00 fee has been maintained.

We believe we can hold our natural ice longer than any other rink because of the placement of the building. The kitchen is on the south west side of the rink and thus shields the ice area from the warmest rays of the sun.

The following building committee was appointed at the March 5th, 1947 meeting; - J.H. Johansson, Louis Sveinson, Albert Johansson, Emil Hehr and Cliff Gremm. This group also served as the Finance Committee with Cliff Gremm as Sec.-Treas. In 1948 the first Curling Club Executive was named. Pres. Merry Walker, Sec.-Treas. Cliff Gremm. Board members were Bill Mewha, Albert Bjarnason, Harold Johnston, Harley Price, Beuphard Baker and Bud Dyer.

The first drawmaster was Harley Price, followed by Steve Johnson, then Emil Hehr served in this capacity for 13 years. Our caretaker for 5 years was Jack Darling who had the dubious pleasure of cranking our gasoline engine which supplied the lights for both

the curling and skating areas until we acquired Calgary Power in 1949. Jack was just as green as the rest of us, but he had lots of advice from everyone, and also considerable help. Mac Hansen and more recently, Raymond Hansen, have been caretakers from 1955 to the present. It was decided that the curling rink would help the skating rink get started by paying for the lights and flooding the area. This procedure is still followed and general skating and hockey is enjoyed by many people.

At the official opening in 1947, Mr. Dan Morkeberg had the honor of throwing the first rock. We had twenty four rinks playing for our first season. Life memberships have been awarded to the following for their outstanding work and continuous devotion to the Club. Jack Darling, Louis Sveinson and Ed Graham. The Markerville Memorial Curling Club suffered a tremendous loss when death claimed Mr. Louis Sveinson in October 1966. His widow Mrs. Iola Sveinson has donated a Memorial Trophy to the Club in his honor. Each year the individual players of the rink that has won the most games in the regular draws have their names engraved on a plate attached to the base of this beautiful trophy.

Markerville Rink is situated on the west bank of the Medicine River on Provincial Park property set aside as a community recreational area, of about eleven acres. This area contains a monument to the famous Icelandic Poet, Mr. Stephan G. Stephanson, which was erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Unveiled in a Ceremony held in Markerville on Labor Day 1950.

Over the years a few changes have been made in our building. The kitchen was enlarged and the entrance was moved. A new roof covering was put on. The walls of the building were double boarded and in 1966 propane heaters for the ice area were installed. Natural gas will be added in the very near future and improvement of the lighting fixtures. We can now enjoy curling comfortably even in the coldest weather and hope to continue for many more years.

MARKERVILLE THREE POINT W.I.

The Markerville Three Point Women's Institute was organized on February 7th, 1952 at the Markerville (Fensala) Community Hall. Mrs. A.B. McGorman of Penhold, Provincial President of the Alberta Women's Institute at that time, was guest speaker.

The Executive formed at this meeting included; Pres. Mrs. Eldo Flake; Vice Pres. Mrs. Les Johnston; Sec.-Treas. Mrs. J.K. Johansson. Other charter members were; - Mrs. Wilson Bulmer, Mrs. Walter Eberle, Mrs. Donald Kemp, Mrs. Morris Stone, Mrs. Harley Price, Mrs. Ralph Youngstrom.

At the first official meeting on Feb. 13th, five new members enrolled; Mrs. J.E. Hillman, Mrs. Jay Reesor, Mrs. Peter Thompson, Mrs. Marvin Thompson and Mrs. M.A. Walker. The next month Mrs. Harry Hansen, Mrs. Don Malcolm and Mrs. Waldie Sveinson joined.

Through the years, meetings have been held on the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 p.m. The Canadian Cancer Society has been supported by the

branch. This support began with \$3.00 raised by each member and has been developed into a community wide canvas.

Many members have received special awards for their work which is displayed annually at the Constituency tea. Articles have later been displayed at the Provincial Bi-ennial Convention and have received prizes. Ten beautiful quilts were displayed at competitions and later raffled to raise funds for various Institute projects.

A scholarship of \$20.00 for the top student in Grade VIII English at Spruce View has been presented annually since 1965. Assistance has been given to the Bethany Homes at Wetaskiwin, patients at Deerhome, Alberta School Hospital and Ponoka Hospital. Unitarian Services, Innisfail rest room, as well as needy families in the community.

Four members, Mrs. Harry Hansen, Mrs. Bruce Smith, Mrs. Marvin Thompson and Mrs. J.K. Johansson have held various offices at Constituency level. Mrs. Frank Smith became Constituency Convener for a second term in 1967.

DAVID ANDERSON FAMILY

David Anderson, born at Irene, South Dakota, on August 14th, 1886. Married at Tyler Minnesota on Feb. 24th, 1909 to Millie R. Peterson, born at Harlan, Iowa on March 15th, 1889.

They emigrated to Calgary arriving there May 1st, 1909, where David worked with his brother Andrew carpentry contracting, until 1914, when they moved to Markerville district and rented the old Gislason farm two miles east of Markerville.

They arrived in Innisfail March 1st, with all their worldly goods in a box car, including a good horse and buggy, which Millie took over with small son Allwyn, to drive through what then seemed like a wilderness, and arrived after dark in the new homestead. On this journey Millie had her first taste of good Icelandic coffee at Mrs. Chris Johansson's. This was really appreciated, as by that time she was sure the coyotes would have their evening meal made up of her and her son.

Later, they bought the NE36-36-2-W5, and moved there in 1914.

Beatrice, Gladys and Clifford were born here.

In 1919 they sold this farm to Wallace Beggs and bought a C.P.R. quarter 1 mile north of Markerville. They lived here from 1910-1945.

Norina and Gordon were born here. Allwyn and Clifford both served overseas in the Army during the second World War. Clifford was taken prisoner during the Dieppe raid and was released to arrive home safely on July 9th, 1945. Allwyn was overseas from 1943-1946.

Allwyn was married in England to Rene Cracknell, Beatrice married a hardy mail carrier August Peterson, Gladys married Andrew Black, Clifford married Bertha Stewart, and Norma married Walter Bouteiller. Gordon was married to Esther Lind. The three sons reside in Red Deer, Beatrice and August live in North Surrey, B.C. Gladys now widowed, lives in Calgary and Norm and Walt live at Penhold.



Dave Anderson family.

During the years lived on the farm they had many wonderful friends and enjoyed playing bridge, dancing and blueberry picking expeditions. Being "Horse and Buggy days" their shopping centre was Eaton's catalogue.

After leaving Markerville, Dave built and sold houses in Red Deer and sold real estate with Mr. Sam Edwards. They moved to Airport Service Penhold in 1956, and then to retire in Red Deer in 1968. They both enjoy very good health and on Feb. 24th, 1969 celebrated their 60th Anniversary.

Mrs. Anderson died in October 1972.

JAKE ANDERSON FAMILY by Annie Pearson

Jens Jacob Anderson was born Feb. 2nd, 1884 in Yankton County, S. Dakota, shortly after his parents came from Denmark. His father Peter Anderson became a missionary and preached in a First Swedish Baptist Church in Calgary for thirteen years after moving to Calgary. Several Markerville old timers will remember him and his wife as they used to visit with their son's families, and also took services in the area as a guest minister.

Jake had very little chance for an education and started working away from home when he was very young. One winter when he was twenty he went to school again in Saskatchewan. Notwithstanding his meagre education he could do the most difficult math without the aid of a pencil. In Saskatchewan he took violin lessons, learning to play the fast old-time jigs and reels and the old-time waltzes by note. Roller skating was another sport he used to take part in.

He worked as a carpenter with his three brothers and a brother-in-law. There are several houses still standing in Calgary which they built around 1910. It was around that time that he spent his spare time one winter making a violin. He made it from a maple table leaf and birch. This violin is still kept in the family and is in good shape.

Jake owned and operated a steam threshing outfit in Saskatchewan for many years. It was at this time that he hired a young Norwegian girl to cook in his cook car, by the name of Barbo Arneson. He married her on Dec. 17, 1912 in Tyler, Minn.

She had come from Norway after the turn of the century and worked as a cook in the U.S. and Canada. Around Markerville she was known as Mrs. Jake or Mama Jake. They lived in Calgary for the first year and then Jake decided to look for a farm. At that time he owned a car called a French Duroc and with his brother Dave started North on a road which was nothing more than a wagon trail.

They came as far as Markerville and Jake bought a quarter section NE of Markerville from a pioneer homesteader Ed Anderson and moved up in the fall of 1913. They were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Thompson Sr. and stayed in their home for several days prior to moving into their new home. They were given a housewarming and presented with a mantle chime clock, which is still kept in the family. There were lots of willows but no trees on this place. It was not long until they had planted hundreds of spruce trees, many still standing today and through the years following, planted many other varieties of trees which made a nice setting for a new house that he built and finished in 1941.

Jake bought one more quarter - the Tingstadt quarter, which he broke. Through good farming practice he found the half section to be adequate. Being a good machinist he kept his machines in top shape. He believed in and practiced grass land farming before any agricultural expert advocated it, hence he raised and sold Timothy, brome and rye grass seed as well as seed grain.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Anderson.

He was interested in many horticultural experiments starting a plum orchard and a one acre raspberry patch as well as rhubarb and asparagus on a large scale. Jake never had good health. He suffered for many years before it was found that he had diabetes and as nothing much was known of this disease at that time, he was put on a 850 calorie diet which wasn't adequate for a working man, but he had terrific will power and persevered, so with careful diet and using the insulin needle for many years he had it under control. At the age of 69 when Markerville built their Memorial Curling rink he became an ardent curler. He also enjoyed dancing and photography and took a keen interest in politics.

Mama Jake was known far and wide for her hospitality, her good coffee and cream waffles. To her, everyone was important. She loved to cater to

people, especially children and had a sincere interest in everyone. When Mr. and Mrs. Anderson reached their seventies they made two trips to California and one trip to North and South Dakota and Wisconsin driving in an old Austin car. They also made several trips to Vancouver Island, once staying all winter.

Mrs. Anderson died June 25, 1960, at the age of 81, and Jake on July 23, 1961 age 77. There were three sons. Odie who lives on the home place at Markerville, married to Helen McLeod of Leslieville. They have two sons, Wayne and Philip. Casner who lives on Vancouver Island married to Eunice Chipman. He has two step-sons Bill and Jim Chipman and they have a daughter Diane Lee and son Kevin.

Peter who travels a great deal, presently living on Vancouver Island in Parksville. There were two daughters, Ellen who married Clare Waddell of Bowden and lives in Innisfail. Annie of Red Deer who married Ernest Pearson (deceased 1962), has one daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Johanson, and son Howard of Red Deer.

JOHN ANDERSON FAMILY

John Anderson and his wife Stella came to the Markerville district in 1920 from Montana, U.S.A. with two children Wayne and Leona to farm in partnership with John's brother Dave. Stella was a sister of Mrs. Dave Anderson. After two years they moved to the Frank Berke place SW Sec.2-37-2-W5 where they stayed until 1924 when they moved to California.

John was a carpenter by trade and California was "booming" at the time and work was plentiful. They had two more girls, Evelyn and Meloa. All children are living near Los Angeles.

Mrs. John Anderson has been completely blind for many years. John passed away in 1967 after a long illness. Although being blind Stella nursed him, does her own housework and cooking, gardening etc. She also reads braille and plays the organ. A really remarkable woman.

MURIEL AND HAROLD ANDERSON FAMILY by Muriel Anderson

Harold Anderson, son of Ed Anderson, born in Innisfail and lived in Picture Butte. He moved back to Markerville and farmed for a number of years. He married Muriel Gatzke in 1945. We moved west of Markerville to a farm purchased from Charlie Anderson and had one daughter Linda, and one son Howard. I belonged to the W.I. and Harold enjoyed curling at Markerville Rink. I remember we had some severe hailstorms and in 1948 there was so much flooding. We crossed the Markerville bridge by tractor, it was covered with two and a half inches of water!

We now live in Coquitlam, B.C. Linda is Mrs. Fred Bettcher and lives in Surrey, B.C. We also have two grandsons.

FRANK BERKE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Berke originally from Boston, Mass. U.S.A. and living in Calgary, came to Marker-

ville in 1919 living on the SW Sec.2-37-2-W5. Frank took leave of absence from a very good position in Calgary to try his hand at farming. At the time they had two daughters, Clara and Dorothy and two sons Herbert and Billy.

They soon found that farming was not all a bed of roses and returned to Calgary in 1922. Another son was born, Frankie. Mr. and Mrs. Berke are still living in Calgary and celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in 1968.

JOHN BERGE FAMILY by Shirley Berge

John and Shirley Berge and daughter Linda came from Red Deer in 1954 to take up farming in the Markerville District. They bought a quarter section from Allan Edwards. Larry and Brian were born while they lived here.

In 1962 John bought the William Scott half-section, which he farmed for three years before selling out to Hans Lehrman in 1965. John and Shirley moved to Red Deer.

Shirley has been employed with S.S. Kresge Co. for the past five years. John works on construction and is presently employed by Parson's Construction for Banff Oil.

JOHN BERGE SR.

John and Josephine Berge came to Markerville to farm with their son John and family in 1954. They lived on the same farm. John was very active in all farm duties. In 1961 they built a new home in which they lived until the farm was sold in 1965. John and Josephine Berge bought a new house in Red Deer and retired there.

ALBERT AND FRANCES BJARNASON

Frances was born in Dickson - daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Adamsen. She attended Lutheran College in Camrose. Albert was born in Heckla, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Bjarnason. He took a motor mechanics course at S.A.I.T. We were married in 1939 and lived in Markerville on land now owned by Mac Hansen. In 1941 we bought land on the banks of the Medicine River from Mrs. Disa Sveinson where we built our home. Albert had a trucking business and a Bulk B.A. Gas Station until 1959. We attended the Lutheran church in Markerville and helped with the Sunday School with Mrs. Grace Miles, and also with cubs and scouts.

Albert was an active curler and served on curling committees and Hall Board. We have five children: Brian married Joanne Frizzell of Calgary and has two daughters. David married Sharon Russell of Caroline and they have one son. Lorne is still living at home. Lucille married George Shuhyta of Innisfail. They live in Calgary and have four children. Sandra worked part-time at the switchboard in Markerville, won a bursary for her grade 6 music, was active in 4-H, married Bob Lansdown of Innisfail and has two sons.

THE HISTORY OF THE BJORN BJORNSEN FAMILY OF MARKERVILLE written by Carl Morkeberg

Bjorn Bjornsen was born in Iceland in 1867, one of a family of seventeen children. His parents passed

away when he was very young and he was taken in and raised by a young couple who were fishermen. The catching of fish and the rearing of sheep were the chief means of subsistence in Iceland in those days and it was mighty slim picking at times according to Bjorn. Iceland was at that time and still is almost devoid of wood in any form, especially around the coast. It was customary therefore to take to the sea in fishing boats to gather driftwood so that it could be taken home and piled and dried to provide fuel for heating their houses and doing their cooking. It was on such an expedition that Bjorn's foster parents along with another couple were caught in a squall and drowned. Bjorn was taken in by an older sister until he was 16 years old and then he emigrated to North Dakota.

In 1889 when he was 22 years old he married Margaret Eirickson at Gundar N.D. Soon after they were married, they, along with her parents emigrated to Canada to what is now known as the Markerville district. They settled on adjoining farms and as that particular part of the country had not been surveyed for homesteads as yet they could be classed as squatters. Bjorn's first house was built on a high hill about a half mile north and east of where he eventually established his farmstead.

Life on the homestead was one continual struggle for a bare existence. There was no such thing as cash income from the homestead for many years. Any money that was made had to be earned in Calgary working for the Eau Claire Lumber Co. or by travelling to the sheep ranches when the sheep shearing season was on and shear sheep for three cents a head. Bjorn and another ambitious Iclander by the name of Ofieger Sigurdson from over in the Ridgewood country (then called Solheima) would go as a team and sometimes would be able to shear 100 head each in a day. This was not an eight hour day and it must be remembered that they did not have a set of power clippers either. It was done the hard way.

Working for the Eau Claire Lumber Co. was not exactly lucrative either, \$2 per day and board yourself. It was not much but at least it was money. Back on the home front there were lots of rabbits, partridges, prairie chicken and ducks. The river was full of fish in those days and it was possible to go up to the creek that connected Burnt Lake and Sylvan Lake (Snake Lake and Swan Lake they were called then) and when the fish were running in the spring it was possible, with the aid of a close tined fork to get a half a wagon box full of fish in a very short time. They were used fresh as much as possible. However some of them were salted and the remainder were dried as was the Icelandic custom until they were about the same consistency as a piece of 1 x 4. These were a valuable source of protein in the lean winters of those early years. Many times the children of those early pioneers went to bed hungry but I never heard of anyone actually starving for very long. An all winter diet of bush rabbit and dried fish is certainly not a

very appetizing thought but it at least kept the hunger pangs away.

There were very few deer in this part of the country in those early years.

John Benedictson and Bjorn used to go to Calgary together and work as a team for the Eau Claire Lumber Co. They must have been a good pair because they were successful on many occasions in winning the prize put up by the lumber company for getting out the most logs in a day.

O. Sigurdson and Bjorn, after a sheep shearing expedition, would each strap a sack of flour to their backs on a sort of cradle and head for home on foot. There was no such thing as a 50 lb. sack of flour either, they all weighed 100 lbs. Money was too precious a commodity and too hard to come by to be wasted on railroad fare. At any rate the train schedules in the early part of the 1890s when the railroad was first built, was so erratic they were better off walking anyway.

When there was not a fence to be found anywhere and the grass was waist high, prairie fires were quite a common occurrence. Once fire got away it was almost impossible to stop as there was no such thing as a plowed field to be found anywhere. There may have been a few little patches where they tried to grow a bit of grain or plant a bit of garden but by and large you would consider it all virgin land. Just the way the Great Maker left it. A prairie fire out of control is an awe inspiring and terrifying sight and one that would strike terror into the heart of even the bravest of mortals. It was such a fire that came within a twinkling of wiping out the Martin family of Ridgewood, in the early 1890s. The men in the Martin family were away and the women and kids were home alone when the fire came up from the west fanned by a big wind of its own making. The women were helpless and terrified as well and as fleeing on foot was out of the question they decided that they would put the children down in the cellar of the house. This they had accomplished and they were in the process of putting the young calves down in the cellar as well, when Bjorn and Chris Johnson came along. Chris Johnson was the father of Fred Johnson and the grandfather of Lilyan, Lila, Kris, Frank and Gordon. They were on foot and the Martin horses were away with the men and although there was a plow to plow a fire guard with, there were no horses to pull it. Bjorn and Chris chopped down some trees to make a fire break and set a back fire up to them. By the time the prairie fire arrived it played itself out on the burned over ground.

Bjorn never had an opportunity to go to school but nevertheless taught himself to read and write both English and Icelandic. He was a wizard at arithmetic with a pencil as well as mentally. He took an active and leading part in all community affairs and his wise counsel and sage and well considered advice was always a stabilizing influence in the affairs of the district.

He was chairman of the school board at Heckla school for many years and was also President of the

Markerville Butter and Cheese Manfg. Assn. for a long period of time. He was President of the hall board for many years and an active member of the Icelandic library (the Idun Reading Society).

He was one of the prime movers behind the great Icelandic yearly celebration which for about twenty years took place on Aug. 2nd and then for another twenty years on June 17th. In either case it almost invariably rained. He was councillor for the M.D. of Poplar Grove for approximately 15 years with ten of them as reeve. He was in fact reeve when he suddenly passed away in 1931 at the age of 64.

His wife Margaret passed away in 1909. Out of their union ten children were born, three of them dying in infancy. The eldest was Annie, whose married name was Mrs. Hall, and lived at the Butte north of Caroline. Disa married Tom Sveinson. Bjorn Laurus (B.L.) married Georgina Johnston. Gudrun married Johann Nordal. Gillie married Rose Hubl. Margaret married Clifford Burns and Elizabeth married Walter Maxson. There are three still living, namely Disa who at present makes her home in Red Deer. Gillie who lives on the old homestead and Gudrun who lives in Seattle.

Gillie and Rose have four children, Margaret (Mrs. Gordon Fitch), Centerville, has two children; Norman married Frances Welsh and lives on the Dan Morkeberg farm; Gisli farms in partnership with his father and Gayle is a PWA stewardess, living in Vancouver.

JOHANN BJORNSON

Another remarkable old Icелander was Johann Bjornson. He was the forerunner of this Icelandic Community. He had the first Post Office west of the Red Deer River in 1890. He named the Post Office 'Tindastoll' an Icelandic name. 'Tinda' is a ridge of mountains and 'stoll' a chair. He got the mail from Poplar Grove once a week by horse and wagon, fording the river in all kinds of weather. When the river was high he had to use a boat. His salary was \$100 dollars per year. The first Tindastoll school was on his place and he was the first secretary. His wife Margaret was the caretaker and also boarded the teacher.



Johann and Asta Bjornson.

He was married three times, his first two wives died at childbirth, but Asta his third wife outlived him. He raised a lot of sheep and cattle on SW20-36-R1-W5. He built the first large house which was sheeted up over the logs with lumber. When settlers came they stayed at his home and he helped them find land and get settled. He had two children. Oliver married Christina Christianson and Gudrun married Jack Murdock. He also raised three step children. Thori Johnson of Calgary. Sara and Lily live in the States.

CHARLES R. BROWN FAMILY

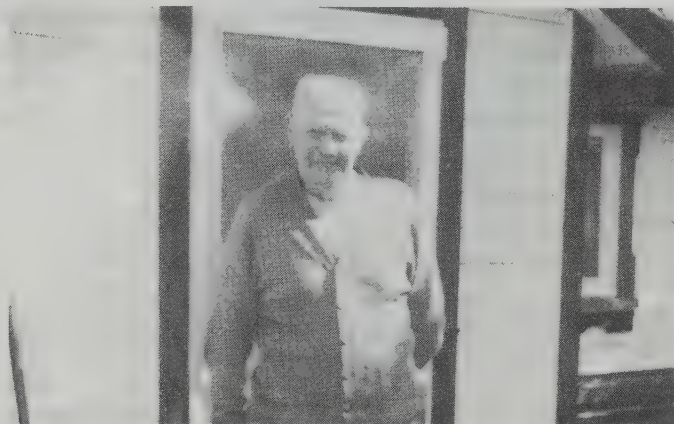
Charles R. Brown was born at Brooks, Alberta Aug. 12th 1913. Remained there a short time then moved with my parents William Brown and Julia Brown to a farm in the Innisfail Area where I lived until seven years old. At the time we rented a farm by the Medicine River which my Dad later owned S1/2-18-36-1-W5.

I decided to leave farming to learn a trade which was Blacksmithing, first apprenticing under A.K. Sigurdson of Markerville, later working for William Springbett of Red Deer. There I met May Rodgers who was born in England in 1910. She came as a child to Canada with her parents Mr. James Rodgers and Louisa Rodgers and resided in the Rocky Mountain House area.

We were married in 1941 and moved to Markerville where we bought the A.K. Sigurdson residence and Blacksmith shop, which we operated until 1957. We bought the garage in Markerville which had been operated by Mr. L.L. Kemp for many years, changed back to welding and blacksmithing, with part time portable welding for Brinkerhoff Drilling Co. We have two sons James who is employed by Pan Oceanic Drilling Co. Algeria, North Africa. He was a member of the Air Cadets and Boy Scouts. Roy lives at home.

ADALJON CHRISTVINSON by a friend

Adaljon Christvinson born in Iceland 1884. Came to Canada and Markerville district in 1889 with his widowed mother. He was keenly interested in Community projects, progress and expansion. John helped to build the Markerville Church as a pioneer carpenter. The church was built in 1907, he also worked on other buildings in the district. He died in 1964 loved and respected by his many friends. He is survived by a cousin Miss Fia Goodman in Edmonton.



Adaljon Christvinson.

JACK DARLING

Jack Darling born in Whitley Bay, Northumberland. He came to Quebec in 1903 and to Markerville in 1920. He was too young to file on a homestead so came with a friend named Dockery who filed for him by proxy. He was chairman of the Tindastoll school board, one of the first members of the G.W.V.A. in Red Deer, with G.W.V.A. and Innisfail Legion Branch No. 104 has been a member for over fifty years. Past Chancellor of the K.P. Lodge in Markerville and member of Innisfail Lodge No. 8. A.F.A.M. He took up curling when he was over sixty was ice maker of Markerville Curling rink for five years. After over sixty years batching Jack retired to the Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail. May he live long to enjoy the comforts he didn't have in those days.

HARRY HUDSON HADDESLEY

Harry Haddesley came to Alberta in 1922 from England. Came to Markerville in 1924. He was an accomplished musician which was a great help to the social life of the community. He could also coax beautiful music out of a ten cent tin Whistle!!

He enlisted in the Calgary Highlanders and was posted to England where he worked in the wives bureau to bring wives of servicemen to Canada. After the war, his eyesight failing, Harry built a house on the Medicine River in Markerville and spent his time with his books, his Hi-Fi, his piano and his friends. He couldn't see but still he would take walks round Markerville and visit for a time with the neighbors, finally retiring to Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail. While there he took a trip to visit his sister in Wales. Sadly, when he boarded the plane to return he took a heart attack and died in 1965.

These three known as Carl Morkebergs disciples had a true friend in Carl. When they were aging, Carl took them into Innisfail for an hour or two at the Legion with pleasant company and a drink or two. If they were sick he took them to the Doctor or Hospital. It is sad to note that none of them live in Markerville, and Jack is the only one surviving of the three.

CHARLES R. DENT FAMILY by Nancy Dent

Canada used to fascinate me as a girl - we used to write essays about countries in the British Empire. I used to think some time, some day I will go to Canada, however time passes and dreams die. My mother died — my father died, after the 1914 war. I joined the Armed Forces in 1940 as a Teletype Operator. I returned home in 1945 to a slightly battered country. I had a chance to visit Canada so came to Calgary in 1950, where I met Charlie. We were married in Taber, his home town. My husband worked on a farm in Herronton so we went there.

Charlie is a good mechanic and interested in things mechanical. We saw an ad for a mechanic in Innisfail. Charlie applied. We came to Innisfail in 1952. He took a course in Mechanics at S.A.I.T. and received his licence. We stayed in Innisfail 7 years. One Sunday returning from Sylvan Lake through Markerville, I remarked to Charlie "what a pleasant little place

Markerville is." In Nov. 1959 we came here to live. My husband took employment at Charlie Brown's Garage. We bought our house from Mrs. Grace Kemp Miles. It had the Telephone switchboard in it so I became A.G.T. Agent-Operator.

The Dial System came after nearly three years and Charlie built a garage here. Markerville is a pleasant place in which to live and there is a great spirit of "Help thy Neighbor" here. I have four children Stella married Geoffrey Harris of London, England - living there now. Joanne in Edmonton. Ben working in Red Deer, and Reggie whom we adopted in 1965.

TRUMAN & MURIEL DYER FAMILY

Bud (Truman) Dyer was born at Maple Creek, Sask. Muriel (Keith) Dyer was born at Lugaski Sask. They came to Markerville to visit Orval and Pearl Gatzke and learned that the Frank Lapham farm was for sale. This was the old Christianson place which they bought. They had three children, Keith, James and Marlene. James died at six months. While living here Bud was active in all sports; — Hockey, Baseball, Curling etc. Muriel was president and secretary of the Home and School Association and delegate to Olds for one Convention. She belonged to the Sewing Circle and the Good Neighbor Club. She was on the committee for arranging the erecting of the Cairn to Icelandic poet, Stephan Stephanson.

They stayed in Markerville nine years. They went to Calgary in 1950 where Bud worked for the city until retiring. Muriel returned to teaching. Keith is married, has one son and is manager of the two Palm Springs Health Spas in Edmonton. Marlene is married, has three daughters. She lives at the coast. Keith and Marlene married sister and brother (Donna and Ray Speers) of Calgary.

EIRIKUR AND GROA EIRIKSON

Eirikur Eirikson came to Canada from Cavalier North Dakota in 1889 at age 3 years. His parents settled on NW23-36-2-W5, the place where Gisli Eirikson now resides.

The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Gisli Eirikson, 3 sisters, Mrs. Thruda Rafson, Mrs. Runa Baldwin, Mrs. Margaret Bjornson, 2 brothers Hosey and Einar Eirikson. Groa Goodmun came from Churchbridge, Saskatchewan in 1902. Her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. Sveinson settled on the land where Waldies resided. Her family: one half sister Mrs. Dora Johnstone and five half brothers, Waldie, Louie, Tom, Jim and Siggi Sveinson. Groa did a lot of dress-making in the district, she was always ready to help out with domestic work and home nursing. She had taken a course at the Agricultural school in Winnipeg in 1910-1912.

Groa and Eirik were married in 1919. He bought land from L. Nash and H. Merryfield. Gisli Eirikson resides there now with his wife. Eirik broke most of the land himself. He worked for Revelstoke Sawmills in the winter. Groa and Eirik went to dances in 40 below zero weather with sleigh and horses - Dick and Chub. Eirik bought his first Model T Ford in 1919 for \$2000. Cars were very expensive that year! Groa



Groa and Erik Eirikson.

could handle the Ford just as well. She was a good, kind, person who helped the needy or homeless. She was an expert with the knitting machine and could knit 25 socks a day. Eirik and Groa belonged to the Lutheran Church in Markerville. Their children were baptized by Rev. Hjalmsen. Eirik hauled freight with Bill Hansen from Innisfail to Nordegg. He was a member of Heckla School Board and Markerville Pipe Band. They had four children Gisli, Gudmunder, Thora (Mrs. Dave Fisher) now nursing in Calgary, Einar who died in 1950. Eirik died in April 1962 at age 72. Groa suffered a stroke and spent many years in a Nursing home. She died in Nov. 1971.

GISLI EIRIKSON FAMILY

Gisli joined the Air Force in 1942, was stationed in Gander Newfoundland, Dartmouth Nova Scotia and in 1945 married Margaret Treeby at Regina, Sask. They went to Pat Bay, B.C. and returned to Markerville in 1946.

Gisli is employed by Dept. of National Defence since 1956. Margaret helped on the Telephone Exchange for Mrs. Miles and Mrs. Dent. She is now Secretary of Spruce View School - since 1962. They were active curlers but are now enjoying Square dancing. Son Robert was an air cadet, and won a senior leaders course in 1967, a flying scholarship in 1968, a Gliders course in 1969 and took an exchange trip to Austria in 1970. He has his pilot's licence.

GUDMUNDER (MUNDI) EIRIKSON

Mundi farmed with his Dad. He married Rose Moisey from Shandro, in 1950. Rose was a nursing aide in Innisfail. She served with the R.C.A.F. (W.D.) from 1942-1946. Mundi bought NW14-T36-R2-W5 and SW23-T36-R2-W5 from his Dad in 1958. They had four children.

Maureen died in 1972 in a tragic car accident. Loretta training as a nurse in Calgary. Thomas and Norman. Mundi was a leader of the cubs and scouts and Rose a member of the Red Cross since 1949. The children were all in 4-H Clubs.

THE FLAKE FAMILY by Ida Flake

George Washington and Inez Flake.

George Flake was born at Beloit, Kansas U.S.A. in December 1879. As a small boy he left Kansas with his parents after a tornado blew their stone house down. They loaded what they had left from the storm and travelled by wagon train to Oregon.

Hughretta Inez McCrow was born in Polk County, Oregon, U.S.A. in Sept. 1881. George Flake and Mr. McCrow came to Canada in 1905, travelling to Peace River Country to look for land. The train was so slow that the passengers could get off the train any time and pick berries. Because of lack of water there, they came to the Innisfail area. They bought section 27-36-2-5 from Mr. Rumping, a bachelor. Mr. Rumping, originally from Montana, thought this a good sale as Mr. Flake put down a substantial payment — easy money as he didn't expect the young man to come back. After the deal the two men returned to Oregon. In the deal Mr. Flake bought the two story house — built in 1902 — still standing, and a herd of horses. George Flake and Inez McCrow were married Oct. 1905 at her parents home. They left Oregon and arrived in Innisfail on November 1st 1905, planning to stay only ten years!

In Innisfail they hired a man with horse and buggy to take them to the farm. Mr. Rumping still there, stayed long enough to teach the young bride how to cook and make coffee, left and was never heard of again. The house was finished on the outside, little done on the inside. They hired a Mr. White for plastering after they put up partitions. They later learned that plaster freezes but the winter of 1905 was mild so no problem.

They bought vegetables and potatoes from Wilbert Conns (who still live in the Big Bend area) Mrs. Flake had canned fruit in Oregon, had it shipped to Canada. Mrs. Flake was an ardent horsewoman and come time for Christmas shopping, would leave early, riding side saddle to Innisfail for her necessities. It would take two hours so the trip could be made in one day. Innisfail was a good sized town in 1905. George Flake's love was horses and he raised many for riding and driving. He had two lively stallions, a Hamiltonian called Mark and a Shire named Decker. He did some freighting, hauling butter from the Creamery at Markerville to Innisfail and bringing back groceries for the Markerville stores. 1906-7 he hauled green lumber from the McCackney sawmill (North of Rocky Mountain House) to Red Deer. In 1907-8 he served as Counsellor for the district and during his term the Raven Road (Highway 54) was made into a provincial road.

On 29th May 1908 Inez returned to Portland for the birth of their first baby Eldo born June 5 1908, returning to Alberta when Eldo was about three months old. He started school in Markerville with Mr. Meldrum as his first teacher. It was quite hard as this being an Icelandic settlement, most of the children couldn't speak English. They had two prairie fires — one in 1913 and one in 1916. After one, haying had been done and only one stack of hay left. Eldo told his Dad "If you cut the stack in half we could have two stacks of hay!!"

Twelve acres of land were broken on this section when they bought it. Machinery was bought either in Innisfail or Penhold. Land was cleared every year but most after 1928 with their first tractor. Haying was a big job. George and Inez both drove mowers and put

the hay up with sweep and hay slide. Fall 1913 saw George, Inez and Eldo visit their family in Oregon. Eldo remembers vividly his first ride in a car to Innisfail. July 17th 1914 another big day — the telephone installed in their home. Markerville their exchange. Benedictsons operated it, the same telephone poles and lines are still in use.

Berry picking time, the neighbors gathered for the day picking blueberries. Flakes had wild fruit on their farm — chokecherries, raspberries and saskatoons. They raised beef, dairy cattle and sheep. Sold cream to the Markerville creamery and later sold whole milk for cheese made at the creamery. In 1939 they sold milk to the Condensary in Red Deer. Milk was picked up at the gate by truck.

In 1942 a Surge milking machine took over the job of milking. To have fresh meat, the neighbors formed a "Beef Ring". Each one butchered a beef and shared it. As there were no ice houses the ladies canned it. George and Inez had their second son Virgil in 1916 and Cecil was born in 1923. Both boys were born at home with Mrs. Rhodes as midwife, for the birth of Cecil. George bought a 1918 Dodge Touring car and being a progressive farmer, a tractor. A Hart Parr in 1928, in 1929 a Red River Special Threshing Machine. They threshed their own grain and 20-35 days custom threshing for neighbors. P.A. Thompson was head carpenter for the new barn erected in 1934. The bottom storey was built, then in 1936 the loft and shingles were put on. The lumber used, was cut and hauled from their own land. Another quarter was bought SW.34-35-2-5.

In the early years some farms had their own power plants, but Flakes used coal oil and gas lamps until power was installed in 1950 by Calgary Power. Heat was provided by coal and wood until 1964. There was a heater in all rooms until 1928, with only one chimney the house was a network of stovepipes! On October 24th 1930 friends and neighbors gathered at the Flake residence to surprise them on their Silver Wedding Anniversary. In 1955 the Markerville hall was packed to capacity with friends who had come to help this fine couple celebrate their Golden Anniversary.

Mrs. Flake was a member of the Bethel Church and Ladies Aid from the first year she came here. Always a busy and willing worker, she helped with many suppers, brought her quilts and fancy work for their sales etc.

Mr. Flake could adapt to any situation and acted as Auctioneer for the ladies, master of ceremonies for many community functions and Santa for the children's concerts at Christmas. A very cheerful person who saw good in everyone, he died on May 4th 1956 at age of 76 years. Inez made her home with Cecil and Ida on the farm, then became a guest at Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail. She spent a year at Valley Park Manor in Red Deer, returned to Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail. On September 9 1971 about 100 friends helped Inez celebrate her 90th at the home of Cecil and Ida. She continues to have reasonably good health.

Eldo Flake married Florence Brown in 1934. They have one son George in the R.C.M.P. in Coppermine N.W.T. Married Beverley Carrier from Fort St. John B.C. and have two children Shelley and Garry. One daughter Cheryl, married to Tom Williamson of Calgary, has one son Kevin.

Cecil Flake rode horseback to Dickson every day to High School. In winter he would ride to Dickson on Monday morning, tie the bridle lines round the pony's neck and send him home. His folks came for him on Friday night. He married Ida Moxness of Shaunavon, Sask. (Ida came to Markerville Post Office to work). They have four children. Charlene, Shirley, Wesley and Myrna. In 1962 they bought the home farm from Mrs. Inez Flake. Cecil is an ardent curler and helped with planning the rink. He was a member of Knights of Pythias, Markerville Hockey team and Ball Club. Ida belonged to the Bethel Ladies Aid, taught Sunday School and was leader of the 4 H club at Markerville.

Virgil married Ruby Cunningham from High River, Alta. She came to Markerville to work in the Post Office. They were married in 1946. Virgil and Ruby bought NE21-36-2 from Virgil De Long. They had two children Irene and Harold. They built a house in 1950 with P.A. Thompson as carpenter. In 1954 Dean Paul helped build a barn. Most lumber for the building was sawed from logs taken from the hill quarter.

Ruby was a member of Bethel Ladies Aid and Good Neighbor Club. She died in Edmonton in 1953. Virgil is a keen curler and helped with Markerville rink since it began. Irene became a teacher and married Clarence Jobs. They live in Calgary with their two daughters Marselle and Leah. Harold went to University, and is teaching in Penhold.

In August 1966 Virgil married Irene (Moffatt) Bennett of Innisfail. They live on the farm with Irene's two sons Bryan and Chris Bennett.

JAMES FRASER HISTORY by Jean Neilsen

James (Jim) Fraser was born in Scotland in 1890. He came to Canada in 1912 working at Fort McLeod, Alberta. He joined the Canadian forces in World War I and served overseas. While in Scotland he married Isabella Fraser who was also born in Scotland. They came to Canada in 1919 working a short time at Fort McLeod. In 1920 they bought SE1/4-33-36-2-W5 in Markerville district. They were members of the Presbyterian Church. Jim was awarded a life membership in the Innisfail Branch of the Canadian Legion. Mrs. Fraser died in Dec. 1938 while a young woman. Jim was left with four children to raise. Alexander (Sandy) resides west of Markerville farming on the home place. He married Eva Corsiatto - teacher at Old Hola School. Eva died in 1964. Sandy married Wyn Myer of Victoria, B.C. Margaret lives in Red Deer, and has been employed at Waskasoo Press Ltd. Margaret helped greatly in raising the family and stayed with her father for years after the family had grown. James (Jim Jr.) lives at Rockyford Alberta, where he is agent for U.F.A. Co-op Ltd. and also has a general trucking business. He

married Jeanette Pederson from Rockyford. They have four sons, Grant, Blair, Dale and Leslie. Jean married Gunnar Nielsen. They bought the Nate White farm north of Markerville and have lived there since 1958. They have two sons. Norman and Ken and one daughter Edna. All the family have been active in 4-H and working with young people in the district. James Fraser spent his last years at the Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail. He died on Oct. 7th, 1969 at age of 79 years. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fraser will be remembered for their kindness and generosity by those who knew them.

O. GATZKE by Pearl Gatzke

Orval Gatzke born 1904 in North Dakota and married Pearl Bertram born in 1903 in Maple Creek, Sask. in 1925. Muriel, our daughter, was born in Sask. We moved to Markerville in 1934 and later bought the Benediktson farm north of Markerville. Orval farmed and dealt in cattle. I joined the Good Neighbor Club, Sewing Circle and Phythian Sisters, played the piano for dances in Markerville and district. We sold the farm in 1954 and retired to Ladner, B.C.

WILLIAM THOMAS GILES by Bertha V. Raycraft

William Giles born in Tennessee, June 20th 1879. He married Sarah Jane Rogers in Oct. 1897, also from Tennessee. A man working for the railroad told William about Canada, a wonderful land. They arrived in Innisfail in 1913. A lovely place - trees and lots of water! They bought N1/2-16-36-1. now owned by Carl Olsen. A house had to be built, barn erected, outfits bought, horses broke, the land ploughed and seeded. They were both great gardeners and brought cuttings and seeds from Tennessee. Flowers grew where nobody expected them. The children went to Big Bend School. Good crops were grown. Everyone helped, cows to be milked, horses and other animals to be looked after. Wood hauled, water was pumped by hand for the cows. Bread and butter made at home, animals butchered. Harvest time was a round of meals; Mother was well organized, cooking for 20 people and the other jobs to be done with a big family. An expert cook, good mother and neighbor and clever seamstress. Her sewing machine (a Pacific Queen) brought from Tennessee often saved the day for her family and others. Tragedy hit in 1917, Virginia, the eldest daughter died.

The Giles house was a stopping place for people coming from Caroline or points west, to Innisfail. There was always room at the table and a stall in the barn for the horses. 1918 was a hard winter. Many animals died from frozen feet or drifted away and froze. People came from east of Innisfail for straw. Some was not paid for due to bad crop conditions.

William bought three Titans (Tractors) and broke up the school section, planted it with flax but it froze. He bought a half section near Carseland so moved there. The depression came, so he built a Garage (Giles Motors) and kept busy while a gravel road was being built. In 1933 another daughter Zelfa died.

Oscar 1898-1962 married Dorothy Schmidt of Markerville. They had five sons David, Charles, Harvey, Ben and one who died at birth, five daughters, Maude, Coralie, Harriet, Linda, Audrey. Virginia 1899-1917. Thomas 1902 farmed at Innisfail. Served in U.S. army in 2nd World War. Now retired. Earl 1905 farmed at Innisfail. Moved to Carseland, married Grace B. Jamieson 1931. Five sons and one daughter. Glester 1907 attended Olds Agricultural School, farmed with Earl at Innisfail, left for Carseland. Now retired to Blackie. Zelfa 1910 went to Big Bend, Tindastoll and Carseland School. Died 1933. Bertha 1913 school at Big Bend for a time. Attended Calgary Normal and married Irvin Raycraft of Blackie. They have three daughters, Sheila, Joanne and Marilyn. Joe 1915 married Doris Ashton. One daughter Patricia. Lives in Kamloops, B.C.

DAVID OSCAR GILES

Oscar Giles was born in Tennessee 1899. Eldest son of William and Sarah Giles he lived on the farm and had an early curiosity about mechanics, which later showed in his mechanical ability. In 1904, he and his family moved to a homestead at Ritzville, Washington. The homestead proved to be very poor land, forcing William to work away from home, horse-trading and work that was available. During this time Oscar and Tom helped at home, catching rabbits by hiding in the rocks and pulling them out with sticks. Earl, Glester and Zelfa were born in Washington, keeping their mother busy.

There were cousins living on nearby homesteads who helped out when necessary. William now butchered for the railroad so the boys learned the trade. In 1913 the Giles family left Washington to come to Alberta. It was a sad family who left their relatives and came to "Indian Country" - Canada. They settled in the Big Bend District west of Innisfail and built the buildings which are still standing and owned by Carl Olson. Oscar, being the oldest, had a lot of responsibility. Farming with horses was not easy - up at 5 a.m., working till 9 p.m. There was livestock to care for, trips to the Medicine River to cut and haul wood for fuel and building. After seeding and harvest there were trips to Innisfail hauling grain by tank pulled by four horses. Getting water for the stock was a problem until in 1925 William purchased a windmill, also three Titan tractors. Oscar spent many happy hours tinkering and figuring how they worked and soon was able to repair their own and the neighbors tractors. Oscar was fun-loving, he loved dancing and enjoyed a school or house party. In 1927, Oscar married Dorothy Schmidt in her parents home west of Markerville, by Rev. Hjalmsen. They settled on SW1-36-1-W5. 1929 was the time of the depression, but with the help of his wife he managed to keep the farm and make a living for his growing family. Oscar and his brother would go out hunting coyotes, he was a good hunter and trapper. One year worked for his father at Giles Motors, Carseland. Dorothy's sister came to stay and go to school at Tindastoll. One year the snow was so high the cows climbed the drifts and ate off the top of the hay-stack. Oscar was a good

neighbor and although self-taught he was good at veterinary, building or mechanical work. Some of the houses in the district where he lived and in Innisfail were built or renovated by him. Jan. 1939, with four small children, fire destroyed their home. Neighbors organized a building bee and erected the house still standing on the homestead now owned by Fred Johansson.

Oscar died April 1963. His widow tried to keep the farm going but ill health forced her to sell. She now lives in Innisfail. David married Elsie Loyer and they live at Wabamun, Alta. Maudie married Murl Hill, lives on a farm east of Innisfail. Charles married Donna Reber, lives west of Bowden. Harvey married Louise Flinn, lives east of Olds. Ben married Anne Wicks and lives in Innisfail. Coralie married Ken Adams, lives at Spruce View. Harriet married Ken Pomeray, lives in Edmonton. Linda married Floyd Waldo, lives in Red Deer. Audrey married Earl Byer, lives in Edmonton.

JOHN GOODMUNDSON FAMILY by Irene Goodmundson

John B. Goodmundson was born at Markerville, and married Irene E. Chitwood in 1940. Irene was born in Port Orchard, Washington. They lived on the old home farm for three years, now owned by Clare Lougheed, and in 1943 bought the farm of Gudmundur Goodmundson. Irene joined the Women's Institute (Tindastoll) and held all offices; was leader of the Tindastoll Twigs (Women's Institute girls club) in the fifties. A dance was held in the Goodmundsons new barn in 1949 for funds to put Calgary power in Tindastoll school.

Families of the community came to play ball of an evening and Sundays on a ball diamond on the farm, also skated on the river to music. The ice was cleared by tractor and wiener roasts were held. John and Irene have two daughters. Louise and Margaret. The farm was NE18-36-2-W5, also purchased thirty acres from Carl Peterson in 1952. Louis married Gerald Welch, lives in Calgary with one son Darcy. Margaret married Del Fehr, lives in Innisfail with two children Shelley and Dennis. Del is production manager at 'Stramit' in Innisfail.

John and Irene retired to Markerville in 1968.

CLIFFORD R. GREMM, MARKERVILLE

My Grandfather came to Ontario from near Berlin, Germany when he was seven years old to High River in 1900. This is where I was born and lived till 1922. For seventeen years I lived in various towns in this province and it was in Calgary that I met and married Miss Lindia J. Forrester who had come to that city from Nova Scotia when she was nine years old. As we both had some retail merchandising experience we were anxious to get established in some business of our own.

We first set our eyes on Markerville on May 24, 1939 and we liked what we saw. By July 1, of that year we had purchased the Post Office, store, warehouses, stock and trade, and home of Mr. and Mrs. Gremur E. Johnson who wished to retire to Victoria B.C. We have never regretted this move.

Gremur passed away and was buried in Tindastol Cemetery November 30, 1967. Margaret, his wife, is now living with her sisters in Victoria.

Along with the store we also acquired an Icelandic gentleman by the name of Thordur Thompson who was of great help to us in getting acquainted with our customers. You always knew where you stood with Thordur. A diplomat he was not. If he did not like you he did not hesitate to tell you right to your face. Perhaps not the best way to gain customers but he and I always got along 100%.

In 1939 there were still a few horses in regular use around this area. During spring break-up a car was almost useless. I recall that in the spring of 1941 Magnus Hansen our local trucker did not turn a wheel for six weeks. The store's were running short of supplies and local creamery was overflowing with butter. We got together and hired Virgil Flake with his four horses and a wagon to take a trip to Innisfail. He drove in (16 miles) with the butter in one day and back home the next day loaded with groceries. He was about axle deep in mud all the way. We repeated this process with Elmer Oleson and his four horse team before the road dried up sufficiently for a truck to travel. The mail courier between Markerville and Innisfail, at that time August Peterson, also had his problems. His half-ton truck did not have enough clearance to clear the deep ruts so he rented a model-T Ford. Finally even the model-T was unable to navigate so August got the loan of a saddle horse, tied the mail sacks to the saddle and led the horse. He got behind schedule but if I remember correctly only one trip short of the six he was due to make that week. Bob Featherstone, who carried mail from Markerville to Dickson, Raven, and Kevisville Post Offices did not have to change as he used a team and democrat regularly.

Being handy I suppose its natural for a local storekeeper to become involved in community work. I was secretary-treasurer for the Markerville Dickson Mutual Telephone from 1942 to 1960. I remember Jack Darling and myself driving around the district soliciting support to start the Markerville Memorial Curling Club which was built in 1948. I drew the plans for this structure and as I look out of the window of my home I am proud to see that the roof line is still straight and true after twenty years. I was president or secretary-treasurer of this club for some years but finally dropped my membership as I was a lousy curler and no prospect of getting any better. I was caretaker of Markerville Community Hall (formerly Fensela Hall) for a long time and am still sec.-treas. I was on the local school board until the consolidated school took over in 1959.

It was in 1955 that my doctor advised me to get off my feet and get a job where I could work sitting down. I thought driving a school bus would accomplish this, so I bought a few buses. Actually it turned out I could do much of my work even better than sitting, like lying flat on my back, either with a grease gun in my hand or fixing an emergency brake. In July 1957 I converted the old store into a storage

garage for four buses and moved the Post Office into the porch of my home. In 1964 we built a new home so the Post Office was again moved.

By 1965 I had acquired a fleet of six vehicles. However the responsibilities began to worry me so in 1967 I sold five of my fleet to Mr. J.D. Stiles. This leaves me only one school bus, a tri-weekly rural mail route out of Markerville, which Cecil Stephanson helps to operate, and the local Post Office, where my wife claims she does all the work.

During the eighteen years we operated the general store our family increased by Kenneth and Donna. Vivian was born in Calgary six years before we came to Markerville. She was married in 1951 to Arthur White. Art took over the Innisfail rural route 1 from Alan Hansen in 1954 and operated this with a general trucking business. In May 1960 he purchased a small acreage and the bulk B.A. station from Albert Bjarnason. He operated two trucks as well as the mail route for some time and then sold his general trucking business to Dave Bjarnason in July 1962. In May 1965 he sold the gas business to Bryce Ruttle of Red Deer and moved to Innisfail from where he continues to operate the rural mail. They have four children Rodney, Leslie, Leanna, and Kenny.

Kenny married to Delores Shoults of Camrose. He is working for the Treasury Branch in Manning, and has two children Kevin and Marcy. Donna intends to go in for secretarial work.

HERB HANSEN FAMILY

Herb and Joan Hansen moved to Markerville in the fall of 1960. Herb had lived in the Happy Hill district. Joan was born in the Kootenay Lake district of British Columbia. They met and married there when Herb was on a gravel haul in 1947. They have two children, Pamela and Christopher. Herb worked with his Dad on the farm and drove a school bus for Cliff Gremm when they first moved to Markerville. Later Herb took a job with the Markerville Creamery as truck driver. He is now janitor at the Spruce View School.

Joan is a teacher at Spruce View in the elementary division, having started teaching there when the school opened in 1959.

MAGNUS HANSEN FAMILY

Magnus Hansen (known to everyone as Mac), was born in Lindknud, Denmark in 1908. Mac's father died when he was one year old. His mother died when he was nine, he was raised by a neighbor, Mrs. Anna Peterson as one of the family. Mac left, arriving in Stettler in 1927. He rented a farm two miles from Content Bridge near Nevis. In the spring of 1928 Mac was one of the last persons to cross the Red Deer River, in a model T Ford when ten minutes later the Content Bridge went out at dusk.

In 1929 Mac went to Calgary, returning to Lousana in 1930 where he bought a quarter of land, kept it two years and sold again, moving to Markerville in 1933. He worked on various farms and for the Markerville Creamery. In 1937 he bought a truck and started trucking. He was kept busy when the roads were fit, boarded at the S.K. Johnson residence.



Cars used in the 1920's. Mac Hanson (on right) and Carl Christensen.

During the trucking years a queer accident happened. One day while he was taking a load of gas barrels and fourteen hogs to Calgary, the truck hit an icy spot, overturned with four wheels up. This was between Bowden and Olds. There was a passenger along, both driver and passenger escaped without a scratch and the pigs were safe. The barrels were scattered. With the help of neighbors, pigs were rounded up until the next day while the truck rack was repaired. Trucking days were busy, but Mac found time for hockey and broom-ball, enjoying these sports from 1935-1940.

On April 4th, 1941 Mac bought the farm we live on now, from Howard Johnston. The quarter we are living on is NE26 and later two other quarters were bought, NW25 and SE35.

In 1941, Mac and Anita Peters of Delburne were married in Stettler. Anita's parents homesteaded near Caster. Mr. Peters hauled freight and mail over a 78 mile route with an eight horse team, plowed the fireguard for the first C.P.R. railroad.

Anita was born in Edmonton, later moved to Hayward, Wisconsin U.S.A., residing there for twelve years, then moved back to Delburne in 1928. Anita joined the Markerville Good Neighbor Club. She is an active member of it and also of the Markerville Home and School Association while the school was in Markerville, also helped with Sunday School classes. In 1946 Mac sold his business to Cecil Sveinson, after nine years of steady trucking.

In 1947 he made a trip back to Denmark before settling down to farming. Mac and Anita are members of the Markerville Memorial Curling Rink. Two sons, Raymond and Gary were born. They were both interested in scouts, cadets and curling. Raymond attended Olds School of Agriculture in 1961, is farming in partnership with his Dad. Mac and Raymond have been icemakers of the Markerville Curling Rink and Skating Rink since 1955. Gary is employed by the Bank of Commerce, Toronto, Ontario.

REV. S.P. HJALMSSON

Rev. Sjera Peter Hjalmssohn was born and educated in Iceland, attended Latin school in Reykjavik for four years then went to University in Copenhagen for two years. In 1893 he entered Theological college in Reykjavik and graduated in 1895. He taught school until 1899 then came to Canada. He worked in

Manitoba at any job he could get. In 1902 he married Jonina Jonsdottir in Winnipeg and came west as a student Minister. July 12th 1905 he took charge of the Icelandic Lutheran Church in Markerville.

He went blind in the late 1930's and couldn't carry on. They had a quarter of land 1/2 mile north of Markerville, and milked a few cows. He carried the cream to Markerville and visited the Library at the same time. He died Jan 30th 1950 at the age of 85. Mrs. Hjalmssohn moved to Winnipeg where she lived with her brother and niece. She lived to the age of 94 yrs.

Those who were confirmed will always remember this kindly lady.



Early confirmation class at Markerville — L. to R.: Helga and Lillian Benedictson, Regina Olson, Rev. Peter Hjalmssohn, Louis Sveinson, Siggi Benedictson, Peter Hillman and Peter Maxson.

JOHN JENSEN FAMILY by Arlone Jensen

John Jensen, born in Jutland, Denmark in 1890, went to the U.S.A. in 1910 to South Dakota. Took English at Tifor Minnesota for two years, and came to Canada in 1915 and homesteaded at Bingville, Alberta. He married Ellen Jorgensen in 1921 at Medicine Hat and moved to Markerville in 1924, and remained here until 1947.

Ellen Jensen, born in Denmark in 1903, went to Racine, Wisconsin U.S.A. in 1904 with her family. In 1905 her mother died and Mr. Ingvar Jorgensen raised the family himself with the help of friendly neighbors. In 1913 they moved to Bingville, as homesteaders. Ellen married John Jensen, Martha and Chris Jensen were born in Redcliffe, Lois, Lyle and Arlone were born in Innisfail.

John, Ellen and family moved to High River in 1947 where they farmed. In 1952 they moved to a small acreage outside High River where John farmed and worked for the town of High River. In 1962 John took a trip to Denmark, the first since leaving for the U.S.A. In 1963 he had a severe stroke and died in Feb. 1968. His wife is living in High River, very active in gardening. Martha (Head) living in Grande Prairie, is married with six daughters. Chris lives in Calgary with his wife Kay, and seven children. Has been with the C.P.R. for 20 years. Lois married Alfred Ironside, a welder, and has 2 children. Employed by the A.G.T. in Calgary for 20 years. Lyle is Corporal R.C.M.P. married and stationed in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Arlone Jensen R.N. lives in High River. Member of the Hospital Board and has her Private pilots Licence.

JOHANNESSENS OF MARKERVILLE

Kristjan and Gudny were married in Iceland and arrived in Winnipeg in 1902. En route to Alberta they worked in Winnipeg, Glenboro, Man. and Edmonton. They lived on a farm north and west of Markerville, which later belonged to Gestur Johannson. They next moved into a little cottage north of the church. In 1907 a daughter was born but died in infancy. Lillian was born in 1910. My father worked for farmers in Markerville, was a book binder, did shoe repairing, and was school caretaker. He also worked in the Icelandic Library. My mother did her share - she kept boarders, teachers, ministers and others. Mr. Snider a teacher was one of the first.

She did a lot of catering with other ladies of the district. I can see the sandwiches, cakes, pies etc. that were made and sold at the booth during the June 17 celebration (Islendingadagurin). That was the day of the year!! In the early 1920s the Copelands turned over to my father the contract for mail delivery from Markerville-Dickson-Raven-Caroline which he later gave up on account of ill health. He died in 1924. He was an optimist and a conscientious worker in spite of a handicap. School days in Markerville were very memorable. Teachers were Miss Baker, Miss Henderson (who later became Mrs. Whiteside) of Penhold. Mr. D.C. Folk and a Mr. Hawkins. In 1926 I moved to Edmonton, attended Victoria High School and graduated from McTavish Business.

I married Clarence L. McLean of Londesboro. We had two boys and three girls. Jack, married Ethel Mitchell - 5 children. William, Samuel, Valerie, twin boys Jeff and Jim. Gwenyth married Gordon Pogson, 2 children, Linda and Lori. Myra, married Douglas Currie, four children, Bruce, Timothy, Steven, and Mary Ellen. Bruce and Joan living at home. My mother who lived with us for twenty-three years died in 1953. She is buried in the Icelandic Cemetery at Grund between Baldur and Glenboro. Clarence died in 1955 and my boys Jack and Bruce took over the farm. Manitoba is a nice place to live but I remember Alberta and that little beauty spot called Markerville as "Gods Country."

THE JOHANNSON STORY by Albert and Phyllis Johannson.

In the Tindastoll cemetery there is a great stone in memory of Johann Haldorson 1827-1892. Haldora Gunnarsdottir 1832-1906. These two pioneers are the parents and grandparents of all the Johannsons in the Markerville district. They emigrated from Iceland in 1888 with five sons to Argyle, Manitoba. The sons were Seggeir, Gunnar, Kristjan and Tegurdor (twins) 1860 and Segtrigur. They all found work on farms around Glenboro. Tegurdor made his home there. The other four brothers came west to homestead in 1884. Gunnar's homestead was NW 28.T36 W5. Segtrigur took the N.E. 28, Kris SW22 T36 W5, Seggeir SW4 T38 W5.

In Iceland the boys of the family take their fathers Christian name and add 'Son', thus Johann Haldorson's son's surname became Johannson not Haldorson. The girls surnames would end in Dottir (daughter of). In Canada they adopted our way and all their descendants are Johannsons. Grandmother Halldora Gunnarsdottir after the death of her husband in 1892 lived with her sons Gunnar, Kristjan and Segtrigur by turns. She lost her eyesight in her declining years. One day a prairie fire started, fanned by a N.W. wind. Fearing for the buildings and her life they took "Amma" in her favourite rocking chair out into the middle of the plowed field where she would be safe. Little Joe still has the rocking chair in his antique collection.

Kristjan Johannson got work on a farm near Argyle, Manitoba shortly after he landed. He told a story about helping plant and watching grow to maturity a very good crop of wheat. It was decided to cut it the next day. During the night a bad hail storm came up and completely destroyed this fine crop. Discouraged and downhearted he came west with his brothers and took up homesteads. He went to Calgary in 1889, found work digging ditches for sewers also worked for the Calgary Brewery.

While here he met and married an Icelandic girl Sigridur Magnusdottir in Oct. 13 1890. They had seven children. Two boys died in early childhood and lie in Burns Cemetery in Calgary. Dora was born in Calgary Nov. 13 1891 Arman was born in Manitoba Feb. 14th 1896.

The sight of the mountains in the west made them think of their homeland, so they decided to try their luck in Kelowna and Rossland B.C. Kristjan found work in the mines at Rossland and his wife operated a laundry, making as much as \$20.00 per day during a gold rush there. They were doing well when a bad diphtheria epidemic broke out. This made them move again taking their children Dora and Arman from this danger. They moved back to Calgary in 1898.

In 1899 Kristjan and his family decided to join the Icelandic community at Tindastol N.W.T. where his brothers and mother were living. He took out a homestead on the S.E. 30-T36-R-W5 in the Tindastoll district. With the help of neighbors and brothers he built a two story log house and two small



Johannson Brothers — Chris, Trigvi, Theodore, Gunnar and Siggier.

log barns, one for sheep and the other for milk cows. Milk was sold to the cheese factory 1/2 mile north of Markerville. When the creamery started in Markerville they hauled cream there. Many times Kristjan walked to Calgary to find work.

Three more children were born on this farm Mary in 1900. Albert in 1905 and Inga in 1910. Mrs. Barney Johnson was the midwife for all the children born around these parts. Kristjan was a good kindly man loved by everyone giving a helping hand wherever he could. He served on the Tindastoll school board for 35 years. He was an ardent reader. Every Monday was cream day and library day. Markerville had a very good Icelandic Library. Kris got two or three books every Monday. These he read aloud to his family every evening after chores were done. He was caretaker of the Tindastoll grave yard until he died April 4th 1936. After the wet years in 1900 and 1901, he helped move the bodies from the first grave yard to higher ground. 200 yards west to the present grave yard. Their home was always open to the grave diggers and bereaved families for coffee and lunch. Many times the little log house was bursting at the seams after funerals. Kris helped build and support the Markerville Icelandic church. The family never missed church and Sunday School.

Mother Johannson was a charter member of the Ladies Aid (Vonin), and it was her job to make the coffee at every funeral in Markerville and she made gallons of it. One yearly outing was a picnic at the Medicine River ford. The grown ups washed many a fleece of wool. A fire was built to heat water and the wool washed. Then the children rinsed it in river. Lots of fun was had in the process.

During the winter months the wool was carded and spun into yarn to be knit into warm woollen mitts, socks and woollen quilts. The Icelandic home knit socks and mitts had a reputation for being the warmest and best wearing. Mother Johannson knit many hundreds of pairs of both by hand and on a knitting

machine. She sold them for 50c a pair and gave hundreds more to friends and neighbors. It was a great occasion when the Government put a telephone line from Innisfail to Markerville in 1905. Albert took over the same old phone and the same number 110, until DDD came in in 1963.

Dora married Harry Eymundson and moved to the Evarts district (See Hillman). Mary married Herbert Switzer and had one girl, Jean who married Mervin Estly and lives in Calgary. They have two children, Marilyn and Boyd. Arman married Eva Atkinson. They farmed NW 34 and SE 33. They had four boys. Albert, Christian, Roy and Stan and three girls Violet, Eileen and Joyce. Arman died May 30th 1949 and Eva in 1959. Hromundur married Gertrude Illaugason. They had six children and lived in Calgary, Leonard and Ellis of Calgary, John at Spruce View and Gladys, Violet and Sylvia. Albert farmed with his father for many years. (It was rough going through the dirty thirties). They farmed with 16 horses. Albert and Arman did custom breaking in the 20's with eight and five horse teams and a Cockshut breaking plow 22" furrow.

They had 2 famous horses that pulled many people out of the mud. Albert got his first International tractor in 1925 and his first car a Maxwell in 1923.

Albert married Phyllis Wade July 10th 1929. Phyllis taught at Big Bend, Innisfail and Tindastoll. They have three children. Margery married Art McAllister in 1954 and now lives in the Antler Hill District. They have three children. Theresa, Wayne and Donna who was the New Years baby in 1966. William Kristjan named after his two grandfathers, married Lorna Damron of Bentley. They have two children. Wanda and Darcy. Bill bought the old homestead and is the third generation to farm it. Marie followed her mother's footsteps and became a teacher. She taught at Innisfail, River Glen and Spruce View and now does substitute teaching. She married Ken Sveinson in 1959 and farm in the Tindastoll district. They have two children. Daniel was the New Year's baby in 1961, and Deborah.

Phyllis Johannson has taken part in all community affairs. She was 4H leader for 10 years. After her family grew up she went back to teach in 1953, to help in the teacher shortage at Markerville and at Spruce View. Retiring in 1968. She has been the organist in the Markerville church for 40 years, playing for nearly every funeral. She is one of the charter members of the Good Neighbor Club. Albert drove a school bus for 10 years, first from Tindastoll to Markerville 1954-1959, then from Tindastoll to



Arman Johannson hauling wood.

Innisfail 1959-1964. He was on the civilian committee of the Markerville Cadet squadron No. 7. He accompanied the cadets on their summer camps to Gimli, Manitoba. Abbotsford and Sea Island.

J.H. JOHANNSSON

Sigbriggur (Trigve) Johannsson was born in 1863 in Iceland and came to Glenboro, Manitoba in 1888 with four brothers. The five young men came with their parents. Trigves first wife died in Feb. 1889, at the birth of their first daughter, Strunna. In 1889 Trigve and three of his brothers came west to Markerville where he filed on NE28-36-1-W5. He left this homestead and went back to Manitoba and, married Sigridur Johansdaughter in Oct. 1894.

They came to Markerville in 1896 and took SW30-36-1-W5 as their homestead. They farmed here until dying - Sigridur in 1937 and Trigve in 1947. Their only son Johan H. (Little Joe) was born in 1906. He married Lily Johnson in 1932. They farmed on the original homestead until 1967 when they sold it to their son Fred. They bought SW35-36-2-W5 and built a house. Joe and Lily are active in all community activities including, Director of Calgary Power, Sewing Circle, Good Neighbor Club, Icelandic Ladies Aid (Vonin) and 4H, Joe is an active curler. In the last few years travel has been a major interest. Joe and Lily have four children. Fred married Lavilla Carlisle. They have one son Heath, one daughter Betty Ann. Leslie married Mary Thomsen. They have four children Bonnie, Lorraine, Philip and Brenda. Shirley married Roger Dye. They live in Red Deer and have three children Suzanne, Sandra and Carolyn. Bernice married Fred Anderson. They have two children Laurel and Lindsey.

SIGGEIR JOHANNSSON

Siggeir (or Garri) was the oldest of the five boys. He married Ingiborg Bjornsdottir in Calgary and came here in 1889, homesteading on S.W. 4.T38.R1.W. His son Peter was born here on Nov. 7th 1893. In 1898 Siggeir cancelled this homestead and proved up on NW 32-36-R1-W5. Dirmundur was born on this place June 17th 1899. Siggeir farmed here with his boys until he died July 23rd 1935. They raised sheep, cattle and horses.

Pete missed his calling, he should have been a vet. He has doctored many sick animals for all the neighbors. He was an expert on digging wells and building the cribbing. He was a pretty accurate weather forecaster. He married Regina Olson March 30th 1930. They had one son John who worked for G.S.I. oil Company in the north. He married Muriel Bentley from Progress B.C. John studied to be a Petroleum Engineer and has worked in many countries round the world. They have three children. Dennis born at Dawson Creek B.C. Dianne born in Calcutta, India and Daryl born in Lybia Africa. They now make their homes in Calgary.

Peter had a good hobby of restoring antiques and dressing and tanning coyote hides and other animal skins. He died of a heart attack in 1970.

GREMUR E. JOHNSON

Gremur Johnson came to Markerville with his father, Einar Johnson who operated the store with Helgi Jonassen. Grimur took the Store and Post Office over in 1901 to 1939 when he sold out to C.R. Gremm. He married Margaret Stephenson, sister of Einer Stephenson in 1907, the first couple to be married in the Markerville Church which was not quite finished. He was in business for forty years - thirty-two of them as Post-Master.

He was an honest man - his word was his bond. He died in 1967 at the age of eighty-eight years. A true pioneer who played an integral part in the development of this country.

HOWARD AND DORA JOHNSTON FAMILY

David Johnstone born 1859 at Chrysler Ontario married Mary Milne born Sonya, Ontario 1864. Moved from Morden, Manitoba to Markerville in 1903. They had three sons, five daughters. Ethel, Joseph, Leslie, Mabel, Florella, Ruby, Howard and Georgina. Howard attended school in Markerville and Hola. Favorite hobbies were hunting and fishing. He joined the army in 1916 and was wounded in action. Spent nine months in hospital, was discharged in 1918.

My parents were born in Iceland. John Sveinson 1857-1932. Thora Gisladdotter Goodman, 1859-1939, moved to Markerville 1902. They had six children. Groa Goodman, from a former marriage, five sons, one daughter. All born in Saskatchewan, except one, Thomas born 1893-1931. Gisli 1895-1955. Waldie 1897-1972. Sigurd 1899-1970. Louis 1900-1966. Dora at Markerville 1904.

I believe hearing about the fast growing community (Icelandic) was a contributing factor in my parents moving west. I attended school at Markerville through Grade nine, attended Okanagan Business College 1920-1921, was a member of the Ladies Aid (Vonin). Later joined the Good Neighbor Club at its inception in early 1930s. Dancing, skating, baseball and singing were my hobbies. I married Howard in 1925, lived in Edmonton for a time whilst Howard attended a course in dairying at University. We moved to Hay Lakes where Howard was cream grader for a year, then to Bashaw, then to Markerville as grader. Later manager and buttermaker, on to Creamery maintenance which took in a large area in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and B.C. I was bookkeeper in the Creamery office in 1928-29. We made our home at the Markerville Hotel, which was owned by Howard's mother.

In 1935 we moved into our own home on the location now owned by Mac Hansen. In 1939 we moved to Red Deer where Howard was employed by the T. Eaton Co. In 1942 we moved to Prince Rupert. Howard wanted to help with the War effort (Ship building) for two years. Worked for the fisheries department, moved to Vancouver Island. Was in the logging industry and construction until 1953. He worked for the Black Ball ferries until retiring in 1961. We have four children, Joyce married Jack Davis, has one boy and lives at Charmarnus, B.C.

Grace married Dave Mlazgar, and has one boy, two girls. Grace works for Civil Defence in Nanaimo. Sylvia married Evert Martin. They have two boys, two girls, 1 foster child. Leslie married in 1939, has one girl, two boys. Employed by Genderton Construction at Nanaimo. I am happy in my vocation (honorable) housewife, mother and grandmother. In 1958 we opened a Rock Shop (lapidary) business in Nanaimo, which we operated for five years, then sold. Wood carving and bottle collecting are also interesting hobbies, along with antiques. Very interesting and fascinating. Try it!

THOMAS A. JOHNSTONE

Thomas Johnstone was born in Moffatt, Scotland in 1888, and came to Ontario in 1908 to learn to farm, earning the sum of eight dollars per month!! I came west on the harvest excursion and worked in Sask. and in the spring went to Edmonton, looking for a homestead. I worked at a sawmill in Mackay and bought a soldier settlement place in Carvel. In Carvel I met my wife, a school teacher who was born in Belfast, Ireland. I traded the farm at Carvel for one in Markerville and moved in 1929. The depression had just begun. A neighbor, Ben Baker, visited the day we arrived and we and his family became good neighbors.

We had two children, Morris and Allan. As I looked back I realize that I was blessed with good friends throughout my life. "Innisfail" is an Irish word meaning "Island of Destiny", and so it was proved to me for there I experienced my greatest joy and my greatest sorrow.

Mrs. Johnstone taught school at Spruce View. She passed away about 1939.

The farm is now owned by Leslie Johansson and Tom Johnstone makes his home in Edmonton.

KEMP GARAGE STORY by Grace Kemp Miles

In the depression, Kemp's Garage of Innisfail was finding it hard to continue in business. Rents were high and income low, accounts were impossible to collect. Lynnford decided we should move to Markerville. The small frame garage went up for tax sale and he bought it for thirty-five dollars. In 1934 we moved into the old "Butcher Shop" on the banks of the Medicine. It was a "never-to-be-forgotten" winter in a one bedroom home with three children and my sister Kay. We survived the cold. Lynnford spent the nights wrapped in a fur coat and keeping the fire burning. There wasn't much business but Mr. Comstock's cattle kept breaking his pump handle or we would have starved.

Bill and Annie Johnson ran a store and telephone exchange. Ellen Anderson worked there. Gremur Johnson had a store and post office with the help of Thordur and Christie Budvarson. Carl Morkeberg ran the Creamery, and we got our hot and cold water there. Fauncie Sigurdson was the local blacksmith. Mrs. Johnstone ran the hotel and Florence Whiteside was the teacher. In spite of hard times we enjoyed ourselves, walking down the river on frosty nights to

play cards with Sveinsons or walking over the swinging bridge to visit Morkebergs.

Lynnford overhauled a car traded in by Howard Johnstone. When it was put together we had transportation. We had an Icelandic picnic June 17th, then a dance. It always rained that day. As we lived right across from the hall we always had visitors. Eventually we moved to the hotel, to Howard and Dora's, then bought the "house on the hill." Our second daughter was born here. In the meantime the business had grown. He ran a light plant which served Markerville, and woe to anyone who used her iron when the plant wasn't running!!

I joined the Good Neighbor Club, the Sewing Circle, and the Home and School. The boys had some good trips with Bill Mewha and the Air cadets. The girls joined the 4-H club. We had some good feeds when Donald or Ted went hunting and fishing. Pat and Ruth pestered the neighbors for a horse to ride. In the second World War Lynnford talked of moving. He kept on ordering more stock as material was scarce. One night when we were away the garage burnt down. Very little was saved but Donald crawled in and locked the safe. Again we had suffered financial loss. We thought of moving but friends persuaded us that a garage was needed and that they would help if we stayed. Cash donations came and labor was supplied and a bigger and better garage was built.

Though Lynnford was not well, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary in 1951. In 1954 Lynnford died. My family grown and married, I worked for Harley Price in the store and telephone office. Later the equipment was put in my home and I became the A.G.T. agent.

I met Arthur Miles in 1957 and three years later we moved to Acme.

HANS LEHRMAN FAMILY

Hans Lehrman was born in Westfalia, Germany, and came to Calgary in 1953. Six months later his wife Ruth arrived from Germany. They lived in Calgary. A carpenter by trade Hans worked there until 1959, then moved to Carseland. In 1966, they moved to Markerville where they bought the John Berge quarter and now farm four and a half quarters, mixed farming. They have two sons, Brian and Larry. Brian belongs to the cadets and all members are interested curlers in Markerville.

THE HISTORY OF THE W.J. MEWHA FAMILY by W. Mewha

During the spring of 1915 Samuel and Mary Mewha formerly of County Antrim, Northern Ireland were married at Wiste, a small prairie town near the Saskatchewan border. A son, William, was born in 1917 and a daughter Priscilla in 1919. The Mewha family moved to Camrose where Bill completed his High School, Business College and Normal School. Leaving Camrose in 1936 Bill taught two years south of Czar and three years at Ricinus, a school six miles west of Caroline.

In 1940 Bill and Grace Waldroff were married and in 1941 moved to Markerville where Bill became

Principal of the new two room Markerville school. Priscilla arrived on the scene in 1941. Kathleen in 1946 and Don in 1949. Bill joined the airforce with Grace taking over his teaching duties until his return in 1945. Disaster struck the family on May 19 of that year when the family home was destroyed by fire. Grace was hospitalized for a period of 42 days. Thanks to the wonderful people of the Markerville community and the Rocky Mountain School Division Board a teacherage was built on a site near the church. The community practically furnished the teacherage also. Bill being active in hockey and baseball and Grace in dramatics and Community work they found Markerville such a wonderful community that they decided to build a new home and retire there.

In 1966, after 20 years as Commanding Officer of No. 7 Squadron Air cadets, Bill retired turning over the reins to two former students Don and Gerald Johnson. Not being satisfied with retirement Bill rejoined the Squadron where he has now become the officer with the longest Cadet service in Canada.

Priscilla married Theo Popilchak. In 1964 true to the traditions of the Medicine River, twins were born to them in Beirut Lebanon. A son Mitchell joined the family three years later. Don went to University where he is working on his Commerce and Law Degrees. Kay moved to New Westminster where she is on the staff of the Bank of Montreal.

Celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary was a highlight of 1965. Making the occasion a memorable one was the fact that all the children were able to be with them. Next year Bill and Grace celebrated the occasion further by making a two month visit to Ethiopia and Europe. As one looks back over the last 28 years one cannot help but recall some interesting experiences that happened to the Mewha family. There was the time when Bill as Principal went to the school with one black and one brown shoe. Then there was the time when Ron Ramsay went home and recited the Lord's Prayer to his mother. She was surprised to hear him say "deliver us from Old Mewha". On questioning him further she found that he was insistent that the teacher had taught him this version. Further investigation proved that "Deliver us from all evil", was more appropriate.

Priscilla represented Alberta at the National 4H competitions at Toronto and Don represented the Spruce View School as guest of the Rotary Clubs of Canada at Ottawa. In 1959 Bill moved to the Spruce View School as Principal. Grace taught English, then took over the duties of Librarian.

THE HISTORY OF THE MORKEBERG FAMILY OF MARKERVILLE by Carl Morkeberg

Dan Morkeberg was born at Ko je Denmark in 1870, one of a family of seven boys and one girl. After finishing school he apprenticed in the Creamery business and at the age of eighteen he was called into the army to serve his time in Military Service as was the custom in Denmark at that time and in fact still is. Being 6 ft. 2" in height and a perfect physical



Dan Morkeberg on left, being admitted to Agriculture Hall of Fame.

speciman he was put into the Royal Guards where the requirements are that a man be six feet or over and without blemish of any kind. After serving his time in the guards which was two years he, like many other guardsmen decided to emigrate some place. It did not matter much where, as anything would be better than Denmark in those days. He and three other young guardsmen drew straws to see where they were going to go. The long straw was for Siam or Thailand as it is known now. The medium straw was for South America and the short straw was for North America. My Dad drew the short straw and so emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1890.

He went directly to the Mid-west and spent the next six years in Iowa, Illinois and Kansas. He worked at many things but spent most of his time working for a company that manufactured butter making machinery. This company sent out high-pressure salesmen to go out into the farming areas of these states and convince farmers that if they only had a creamery all their troubles would be over. My Dad's job, after the building was erected was to install the machinery and get everything operating. He would pick some likely looking young man to train and after teaching him the rudimentary principles of making butter, which probably took about a month he would go on to the next place and repeat the performance. After a few years of this, one of the periodic depressions came along and the company went bankrupt. Work was almost impossible to find and he, along with a lot of other men joined Coxey's army.

This was a loosely knit organization of men led by this man Coxey who commandeered a train with the intention of going to Washington and get their troubles settled. The train stopped in Chicago and while there my Dad got a job at the Deering foundry as an iron moulder at the tremendous wage of \$1.00 per day. As it cost him \$1.00 per day for board and room the only way he could make money for tobacco, shoes and clothes and other necessities was to work overtime. The overtime pay rate was 10c per hr. The ordinary working day was 10 hours at six days a

week. Even if one did not have to work overtime to buy the necessities it was compulsory if one wanted to eat on Sunday.

In 1896 my Uncle Holger arrived from Denmark, and they decided the hand to mouth existence in Chicago was getting them nowhere. They made their way to Montana to the Flathead Valley, and there lived the life of real frontiersmen for two years. The rivers and creeks were full of fish and the woods were full of deer and they lived a really carefree existence until 1898 and were bitten by the gold fever bug. Early in 1898 they set out with a pack train and saddlehorse heading for the Klondike to make their fortune. They made their way along the foothills and while crossing the Clearwater river straight west of here, whilst the river was in flood they had the misfortune of losing some of their horses and most of their supplies. There were four men in the party to start with and after this misfortune they decided to call it off. Holger and my Dad took one pack horse and headed east and the other two went back to Montana. There was no other choice as they had no money to buy another outfit. All the food they were able to salvage out of the mess was some rattlesnake bacon and some oatmeal.

(Rattlesnake bacon was the trade name in those days for salt sow belly dyed green). It was manufactured in Chicago. My Dad almost lost his life in this misadventure. There was not a soul between the Clearwater and Medicine in those days with the exception of Bob Shannon who squatted on the Raven River about six miles south of the present site of Raven. Bob had 400 head of cattle which had the whole west country for pasture. There were a few settlers close to the Medicine on the west side, but the first one they actually saw after they forded the Medicine about a mile north of where Markerville is now situated, was John Benedikson and his wife Lena.

John Benedikson had a small cheese factory and a small store with a very limited stock. However, like all the early Icelanders their welcome mat was out and Mrs. Benedikson was in the process of taking some newly-baked bread out of the oven just as they arrived. After a diet of oatmeal and rattlesnake bacon for many days they were ravenous and did ample justice to Mrs. Benedikson's cooking. They both said on many occasions that never in their lives had they tasted or smelled anything that was as delicious as that new made bread. They both wore big hats and full beards and had mosquito netting over their heads to keep the millions of mosquitoes at bay.

Having come from Montana where the carrying of a six shooter was a common custom they too, were so equipped. Taking it all round they were a pretty rough looking pair and it is no wonder the peaceful Icelanders were scared of them at first. They decided to stay around for a few days and after they had a bath in the river, shaved off their beards and trimmed their hair they looked like a couple of Danish gentlemen instead of outlaws. The Icelanders took them right into their hearts.

My Dad decided to go to Edmonton to see what was going on in that Metropolis. Holger got work in Red Deer and remained there. While in Edmonton my Dad met C.P. Marker who was Dairy Commissioner for the N.W.T. and Marker told him if he ever wanted a job there was one waiting for him. My Dad went back to Montana that winter and Holger stayed on in Red Deer. In the Spring he returned and reported to Marker for duty. His first job was to open the first creamery in Edmonton. The next one to open a milk skimming station at Leduc. Marker then informed him that he was to go to Markerville, or Tindastoll as it was then known, and start a Creamery in the Icelandic settlement there. Marker said he would only have to stay there six weeks or until he could train someone to operate the plant. The conditions there would be very primitive and he would not expect him to stay there permanently. Primitive was a very apt description of the conditions. There were no roads, bridges. There was nothing except a group of people that were very determined to better their way of life. Instead of six weeks my Dad stayed here until he passed away approximately sixty-five years later.



Carl, left, and Dan Morkeberg.

He never regretted a moment of it. The Icelanders, he came to serve, he learned to love and respect and the feeling was mutual. The Icelanders used to say that there was only one thing wrong with Dan Morkeberg, the fact that he was not an Icelander. In 1900 my Mother emigrated from Sweden having been born and raised in Sunsvall in Northern Sweden. She was twenty years old when she landed in Quebec and after a short stay there, came to Calgary. My Dad being in the employ of the Dominion Government was sent to Calgary to buy and inspect oats that was to be shipped to South Africa to supply feed for the horses that were part of the expeditionary force that was sent there to take part in the South African War. It was there he met my mother and they were married on July 1st 1902. Out of this union there were six children, one dying in infancy. Carl, the eldest here at Markerville married Marion Miles of High River. Margaret married George McQuat and lives in Edmonton. Val lives in Red Deer. She was a graduate nurse and looked after our parents in their latter years. She never married. Beatrice married Steve Johnson of Markerville and they live in Red Deer.

Erik the youngest married an Edmonton girl, Rene Rollins, and lives in Saskatoon.

My Mother was never much for going out and meeting strangers. However she was a wonderful hostess and a wonderful cook and loved nothing better than to have the family and close friends gather at the house where she was right in her element when she was up to her ears in work preparing a meal as she alone could do. My Dad was a different kind of character, he was right in the middle of things all the time. During his lifetime he won many awards for service to his adopted Country. My dad was elected to the legislature in 1917 and served until 1921 when the Liberals were swept out of office by the farmers Government. In 1924 he was knighted by the King of Denmark and in 1960 elected to the Agriculture Hall of fame.

My mother passed away in 1950 and my father in 1963.

HISTORY OF THE ROBERT NICHOLSON FAMILY by Carrie Nicholson

Robert Nicholson moved with his family from Washington U.S.A. in the year 1900, and took up a homestead. He married Mary Kelsey in Washington. They raised a family of four daughters and three sons, Lissie, Massie, Eva and Alma, Clive, Robert and George. Clive and Robert both served in World War I. Clive returned home but Robert was killed in action. The only one living in the Nicholson family now is Mrs. Alma Lukes of Calgary.

Robert Nicholson was a stone mason and worked in Calgary. He died in 1906. His wife died some years later in the 1920s. Clive and George used to haul mail from Markerville to Stauffer in the early days. George bought a quarter section of C.P.R. land at Markerville. He was married to Carrie Anderson in 1932. In 1950 they moved to Red Deer. George worked for Stewart Bros. for 13 years. He passed away September 1971.

Lissie Nicholson was married to J.M. McLeod. They had three children - two died. Massie Nicholson was married to Henry Clarkin. They had five children - one died.

Eva Nicholson was married to George James. They had three children. Alma Nicholson was married to H.N. Lukes. They had three children. Clive Nicholson was married to Miss Petro. They had three children. Son Robert Nicholson was never married.

THE HAROLD NIELSEN FAMILY by Lois Nielsen

Harold Nielsen was born in Bolling, Denmark, in 1907. At age twenty-two he emigrated to Canada. His introduction to Canada was rough as he came without knowledge of English and face to face with the "Depression" of the thirties. He worked at whatever jobs were available. In 1932 he had a job working for Clarence Rhodes.

In the fall of 1936 he married Inga Christensen. They rented the Frost Christiansen farm located on the Medicine River across from Hola School. They had two children. Orla and Philip. Orla married Elsa

Berghs of Dickson. Orla works for the U.F.A. Co-op at Spruce View. Philip married Islay Schenk of Rocky Mountain House - a school teacher. Philip works for Air Canada. They reside in Calgary.

Harold lost his first wife in Spring of 1954. He has since married Lois Corsiatto, who has the beauty parlor in Markerville. He works for W.C. Wills Construction as a Roller operator.

JON ANDRJS OLSON

John Olson was born in Reykjavik May 22nd 1878. He emigrated to Canada when he was ten years old. He lived in Manitoba until 1901 when he came to Markerville.

He married Sigrun Sigurdson and they lived on a farm north of Markerville. They had nine children,

Fred, Kari, John (deceased). Aurora (deceased), Kristine Mueller of Olds, Regina Olson and Johanna (deceased). John Olson was an active worker in the community. He was councillor for the M.D. of Golden West for several years, and secretary for the creamery directors. He acted as chairman for concerts and he was a good singer. He lead and directed the church choir and was a member of the Markerville band. He died Oct 31st 1934 from a heart attack. Mrs. Olson made her home with her daughter Mrs. Peter Johannson. She had a visit to Iceland in the summer of 1957. She died in 1970.

CARL PETERSON FAMILY by Mildred Rasmussen

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Peterson with their family Mearl, Evelyn, Mildred, Vivian, Chester and Glenn, came to Penhold in May 1934, from Canuck, Sask. They made arrangements to buy a half section west of Penhold in the Markerville area. We knew where the farmstead was because Jake Anderson had a beautiful grove of poplars across the road from our house. The house we moved into consisted of two rooms and had been used as a granary. There was sprouted grain in the corners, the floor sagged and no windows to keep out the pigeons. With the furniture we had we began to make a new home. It was plenty cool living in a tent as water would freeze in the pail. Coming from the prairies we thought the trees should be chopped down. Chester located the axe and started to chop, but Uncle Martin stopped that!

Many other families came who left the prairies during the summer. They came in covered wagons and burros with carts. They brought our stock. Our riding pony ridden all the way from Canuck, Sask. didn't seem hurt, as she took us many miles after that. We had no crop that year and in fall, Dad went to Saskatchewan to get some custom threshing. We had no transportation so we would carry cream to Markerville creamery on the way to school.

We walked through Jake Anderson's land and Mrs. Jake would treat us with flat brod, lifsa or fruit. She even bought the cream, hating to see us pack it so far. The cream was our main income for groceries and we didn't have much of that. We looked forward to getting some cheese curds when we picked up the can and mail after school. Evelyn, just 15, went to work

for Bill and Annie Johnson in Markerville. Mearl was the hired man at home.

He worked for Mr. Comstock, stooked for Jake Anderson, later worked at the George Wright farm west of Penhold and was paid forty five dollars a month. The girls working there got twenty-five dollars per month. Ronald was born the summer of 1936. Evelyn, Vivian and I went to school in Calgary. We finished high school in Dickson. Dad sold the farm in 1947 and moved to the Hal Craig farm in the Big Bend district. They lived here until 1958, had a sale and moved to Penhold. Mother died in 1962. Ronnie died in 1963. Mearl married Lois Reddick of Caroline. They live in Vancouver and have two married daughters. Evelyn married Bob White from Markerville. Living in Penhold, have two sons. Mildred married Holger Rasmussen of Dalum, have two sons, living in Red Deer. Vivian married Wilbur Dudley. They have two girls and one boy and live in High River. Chester married Grace Munro, they live on the old Craig farm in Big Bend, have three girls. Glen married Leona Munro, they live near the Medicine River. Have two girls and one boy. Carl lives in Penhold and has since moved into the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer.

OTTO POHL

In 1930, Samuel Pohl of Edmonton purchased the SW33-36-2-5 from Mr. Ray Hunter of California. This farm consisted of 160 acres, mostly willow brush and some poplar. The farm was fenced with posts cut from the willows, some are still standing today. The first land was broke in 1932 and two granaries and a straw barn was built. In 1939 Otto took over the farm and together with his parents they moved into one of the granaries which served as a house.

Otto Pohl married Elsie Lemke and a new house was built. They had one daughter Carol Diane, now residing in Edmonton. In 1951 the SE32-36-2-5 was purchased from Frank Bloom of Sylvan Lake. In 1936 eight horses were burned, caused by a grass fire - again in 1939 the straw barn and four horses were destroyed by fire. Today this farm consists of cattle, hogs and poultry - no horses!!

HARLEY PRICE FAMILY by Isabell Price

Harley Price, born in Iowa, came to Canada as a young boy. Isabel (Toots) Price, born in Taber, Alberta. Working in Calgary, Isabel met Harley Price and they were married.

Two children Shirley and Gordon were born in Calgary.

In 1946 they moved to Markerville and bought the store and Telephone office from Len Hansen. Harley belonged to the Masonic Lodge in Innisfail, the Canadian Legion and the Markerville Curling Club. Toots joined the Good Neighbor Club, the Women's Institute, birthday club, curling club and Home and School Association. Shirley married Geoffrey Parlbj. They have three sons. Ricky, Alan, and Jimmy. Gordon lives in Calgary. They celebrated their 25th anniversary in Markerville. In 1959 fire destroyed their store. They decided they couldn't rebuild, so went to

Strathmore with Harley as assistant manager of the Co-op Store. They moved to Crossfield, then retired to Red Deer where they are now living.

BRYCE RUTTLE FAMILY

The Bryce Ruttle family came to Markerville in 1965 to the Art White place. We had an electric business called 'Ruttle Electric', but decided to move to the country where it is quiet so that the children could have animals. Bryce was born in Bracken, Saskatchewan in 1932. Bonnie in Meath Porls, Saskatchewan in 1936. We have a Bulk Oil Depot at Markerville, Bryce is an electrician here and works for a firm in Red Deer, called Triple 'A' Electric, where Brian is a second year apprentice. We have a few head of Angus cattle.

We have four children Brian, Beverly, Brenda, and Belinda. The girls belonged to various community activities including 4-H.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ruttle moved here in 1969 from Bracken, Sask. to retire. Their home is on the Bryce Ruttle Property.

WALTER SCOTT FARM by Mrs. Walter Scott

In 1947 we bought the Carl Peterson farm, a mile and a half north and a mile east of Markerville. The quarter in Ridgewood that my brother-in-law bought for his crippled brother in 1925 was sold. In Ridgewood we lost three crops in five years, in Markerville we lost five crops in ten years. We moved to Sylvan Lake in 1958 and are now retired. Our son William married Beverley Skjonsberg of Bentley in 1957. They moved to Beaver Lodge, Alberta. They have three children.

BRUCE SMITH FAMILY

Bruce Smith was born at Innisfail and received his education at the Alix and Elnora schools. He married Gudrun Thompson at the home of her parents in the Heckla district. Gudrun (Goodie) was born at Markerville. For two years they lived in Calgary, then moved to a farm S.W. 36-36-2, north of Markerville where they lived for the next twenty years.

In 1955 Bruce started working for the County of Red Deer, as janitor for the Markerville school. When the Markerville school was closed in 1959, the Smith's moved to Spruce View where Bruce is employed as janitor at the new school. They purchased a lot from Vic Adams and built a new home.

Bruce is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Innisfail, and Goodie a Pythian Sister. Goodie also belongs to the Markerville Good Neighbor's Club and the Three Point W.I.

They have two children — Donald and Mary.

The Smith family was active in 4H work. Bruce and Goodie were 4H leaders. In 1955 Mary, along with two other Markerville girls won a trip to Toronto where they entered the National Competitions in Garden Clubs at the Royal Winter Fair. She also won the Singer Sewing Machine prize in competition and has made good use of her sewing knowledge, often winning at the local fairs. Donald was a member of the Air Cadets and won a leadership course at Camp

Borden. Bruce was on the Civilian Committee for Air Cadet Squadron No. 7.

Donald graduated from the Royal Military College at Kingston and received his degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta. He served one year with the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt. He is married and lives in Port Arthur.

Mary resides in Red Deer with her husband, Ron Vanson, and two sons.

STEWART FAMILY by Mrs. Fred Walker

Forbes Mitchell (Jock) Stewart, born 1897 in Aberdeen, Scotland married Gladys Redford in 1917, born 1897 in Branston, England. They came to Canada in 1927 directly to Markerville. They farmed with their five children Bill and Dick (twins), Jim, Lily and Betty. They bought the land homesteaded by Ole Johnston in 1902, during World War I. Later owned by Mr. Cotton who owned the land up to when the Stewart's bought it from the V.L.A. in 1927 NW36-36-2-W5.

Jock Stewart entered service in the 1st World War at age 15 years. In 1915 he served as bugle boy. He served locally during World War 2. Dick was overseas during the latter part of World War 2 and returned home in 1946.

Jim and Bill were unable to join because of health reasons. The family consisted of: Jim, living in Calgary; Lily (Mrs. Fred Walker) of Red Deer; Betty (Mrs. Don Mowatt) now of Calgary; Vivian (Mrs. Fred Gray) of Calgary. Larry married, in business in Calgary; Gwen (Mrs. Neil Campbell) of Calgary; Kristine (Mrs. Jack Walker) of Red Deer. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in Aug. 1967. Jock died in 1968. Mrs. Stewart died in 1969.

JOHN SVEINSON HISTORY

John Sveinson was born in Iceland, emigrated to Churchbridge, Sask. In 1890 he married Thora Gisladdotter, a widow with one daughter Groa, (born 1888). They had five boys. Tom, Gisli, Waldie, Siggie and Louis. In 1902 the Sveinsons came to Alberta. A quarter, one mile southeast of Markerville was bought from E. Knapdall for \$700. In 1903 the family moved into a two room cabin on their land along the Medicine. Lots of families had camped on this land. A part of a dug-out still remains along the bank where one family lived until finding a place to settle. Eight acres of land were cleared, with an old buck saw and hauled for fire wood on a home made sleigh. A team of horses and a hand plough was used to work this land. The oats were threshed with a steam engine threshing machine owned by Pete Lavell and crew. In 1904 Dora was born making seven children.

A home was built on the farm and an addition in 1914. The children attended school in Tindastoll and Markerville. A Model T Ford was bought in 1917.

GUDMUNDER THOMAS (TOM) SVEINSON

Born in Churchbridge Sask. May 1893, Tom bought a farm adjacent to his father's in 1919. He was

community minded. Local School Board, Fensalla Hall, Executive Counsellor for M.D. 55 and past master of the Innisfail Masonic Lodge. Tom married (Disa) Gudbjorg Thordis Bjornson in 1922. They had five children. Cecil, Margaret, Agnes, Ralph, Norman. Tom died at 38 years, in 1931. Cecil, born in Markerville worked with the Pacific Grain Company and later at Bowden correctional Institute. Is presently in Haney, B.C. He married Lilja (Finsson) Gillette, a widow with one daughter Patricia. They had four more children, Leslie, Lois, Stuart and Cindy. Margaret graduated from Normal in Calgary 1942. She married Hertel Rasmussen and they have four children. Gerald, Howard, Douglas and Debra. Margaret started the first Markerville Girls Club the "Tip Top Teeners". She teaches in Drumheller. Agnes trained at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. Now is matron of Eckville hospital and married Jack Bardenhagen. They have three children, William, Beverley and Donald. Norman (twin to Ralph) worked at Gremms store and Post Office. Norman and Ralph took part in community activities such as hockey and baseball. He married Carol Spraggs. They have two children, Thomas and Kathy. Norman is Post Master in Innisfail. Ralph (Norman's twin) worked in various jobs, then with Canada Packers in Innisfail then in Red Deer. He married Marlene Schמידek in 1956 and has two daughters. Barbara and Susan. Disa died in 1971.

SIGURD (SAM) SVEINSON

Sigurd Sveinson, born in Churchbridge, Saskatchewan 1899, came to Alberta with his parents in 1902. Went with his brothers and sisters to Tindastoll school. He worked on the farm for years but wanted something different so he took a course in mechanics at S.A.I.T. in Calgary. He moved to Vernon, B.C. where he worked as a garage mechanic, later joining the Vernon Fire Dept. He bought a service station and garage in Canoe, B.C. Sold it in 1946 and joined the Federal Civil service where he operated a dredge on the Thompson River. Prior to his retirement in 1964 he served above the Arctic Circle on the McKenzie River and Hay River. Sam married Edith Elliott had four daughters. Thora, Thelma, Joan, and Barbara. Thora Blackhall, Smithers, B.C. Joan McClean, Edmonton, Alberta. Barbara Harisymchuch, Delta, B.C. Thelma died at age of three years. Sam passed away at Salmon Arm Hospital July 1970. He will long be remembered for his quiet hospitality and sense of humor.

GISLI JAMES SVEINSON

Gisli Sveinson, born in Churchbridge, Saskatchewan 1894. Went to school in Tindastoll. Joined the army in the first World War. Served in France, was wounded in 1918 and spent some time in hospital in England. He married an English girl and came back in 1919. They lived in Calgary and he worked for a Creamery until moving to Vernon, B.C. in 1920. He joined the Vernon Fire Dept. His marriage ended in divorce. He married again and he and his wife Mary and son Benny made their home in Fontana, California, U.S.A. He died by accident in 1955.

WALDIMAR SVEINSON

Waldie born in Churchbridge, Sask. 1896, came to Markerville in 1902. He worked hard helping to clear the land NE24-R2-W5. He worked for O. Sigurdson and Thordur Thompson. Waldie went overseas in the first World War in 1918. Returning he stayed in B.C. lumbering around Vernon and Chase, B.C. Waldie married Violet Cook in 1925 at Rev. Peter Hjalmsen's house. They settled on the home place NE24-R2-W5. He acquired NW24-36-2-W5 from Holgar Morkeberg and later east half and north west quarter 19. Violet born 1906 attended school in Bethel Church, Spruce View and Markerville, walked or road horseback. She rode "Kitchen" to school; he had a habit of turning into "Flakes". When I couldn't get him by, Eldo would take over and let me ride his horse home. Waldie belonged to the Knights of Pythias. Violet is a Charter member of the Good Neighbor Club, belonged to the 3 Point W.I. for some years, and of the Pythian Sisters for a number of years. Violet held all offices. Waldie and Violet had three sons.

Allan married Norma Moyer and lives south of Innisfail and has three daughters. Lynn, Laurie and Leone.

Keith went on to University and was assistant agriculturalist in Calgary. He is now with the Agricultural branch of the Royal Bank. Married to Edna Holt with three children. Bryan, Jill and John. Ken bought the East half and NW quarter of 19 and is farming Waldie's and Louis' land. He married Marie Johannson. They have two children, Danny and Debbie. Ken was leader of the Tindastoll 4-H Beef Club. He is president of the Markerville Hall Board. Waldie died peacefully in his sleep in July 1972.

LOUIS AND IOLA SVEINSON

Louis Sveinson, born in Churchbridge Saskatchewan in 1900, moved to Markerville with his folks in 1902. Attended school in Tindastoll and Markerville, worked on his father's farm herding sheep, clearing land and hauling wood.

In 1929 he married Iola Griffith. They built a home on the Hosi Eirikson place, lived and farmed there until 1937 when they moved to the farm left to him by his father adjoining the home place.

Iola Griffith came to Craig in 1921 with her mother and step father Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hopkins from Lousana. They settled on the south half of Sec.3,-T-37-R.3 west of 5th (known as Stanie Budvarson quarter now). They moved to Markerville in spring of 1924 and lived in Morkeberg's house across from the creamery. Iola worked at Nelson brothers and also was employed in G.E. Johnson's store and post office before she married Louis. Iola has been a charter member of Good-Neighbor Club since it started in 1935 and is still active.

Both have been active curlers and supporters of the local curling club since 1948. Louis and Iola have been widely known for artistic ability in decorating over 100 cakes for wedding, birthday and anniversaries in the community.

Louie was a road foreman for ten years in the district during the 1920s and was Councillor of Poplar Grove in 1930 until the big unit came in. An active member of the Hall Board and a good carpenter, helping many neighbors and friends in building new homes. Also donating his work toward community places as the curling rink, hall, picnic tables and benches. Both always helpful to young people in the district as well as community projects.

Louis died in October 1966, his wife Iola tries to keep up the community spirit, helping where any help is needed.

EINER THOMSEN FAMILY

On May 10th, 1928 Einer Thomsen came to Canada from Denmark with Mrs. Carl A. Christensen and family; Ingebord, Valbor, Martha, Carl and Martin. Carl Christensen had come to Canada in 1927 and rented a farm at Ardley with Mac Hansen. Einer Thomsen worked for a farmer in Ardley. Einer and Val were married in 1928 and worked in Delburne.

The Christensen family moved to Markerville from Delburne and bought land. Val and Einer came to Markerville in 1931. They rented land in Centerville and Markerville districts, then bought one quarter about four miles west of Markerville in 1936. They built a small house, dug a well by hand. They built a straw barn. Only twelve acres were cultivated when the farm was bought. Cultivating, seeding and most of the harvest was done by horses with small horse-drawn implements. Einer and Val have two children William and Mary. Walking two miles to school was necessary - no buses. Bicycles or horses were used as transportation to school. In 1946 Einer sold the farm and bought the John Jensen farm a mile east of Markerville. They moved in 1947. Einer, Val and William still reside at the farm.

MR. THORDUR THOMPSON written by Cliff Gremm

Mr. Thompson came to this country with his parents and sister Sigurlina from Austureyi, Iceland in the spring of 1901 when Thordur was 24 years old. Thordur's mother was Sigridur Bjarnadottir from Felli, Iceland. Thordur's dad Guthni, was a full brother to Mr. Ofeigur Sigurdson's first wife, whose christian name was Astridur. Their surname in Iceland was Tomasson but it was changed to Thompson for this country. The father Guthni and son Thordur homesteaded on N1/2 of 6-37-1-W5. They had quite a few sheep, some horses and a number of cattle and got along well. Daughter Lena married a man from Revelstoke, B.C. When Guthni died Thordur bought the other quarter from his mother and concentrated on breeding and raising good horses. Thordur rented his farm and moved to Markerville in 1924 after his mother died. He lived above the local black smith shop with the owner-operator Mr. A.K. Sigurdson. He carried on with his horse trading business from what used to be Wilson's Livery Stable. About 1927 Thordur sold the last of his horses and started work as a clerk in Mr. G.E. Johnson's store. His half section was rented to Peter Johannson from 1930 to 1944 when the Ramsay Bros. took over.

About the middle of the 1930s Thordur moved in with Andy and Laura Hansen. When Hansens moved to Calgary in 1954 Thordur went along. I believe his happiest times during his later years were when he returned to Markerville to visit, which he did frequently. The last few years of his life he stayed at Autumn Glen Lodge, Innisfail. He was healthy and remarkably spry until he took a stroke and passed away in the General Hospital, Calgary in August 1963.

Thordur never married and had no dependents so he made his will and except for a few substantial bequests left all his money, some thousands of dollars, in the care of Mr. Louis Sveinson and myself to help children who are in need of medical assistance. I am sorry to say that Mr. Sveinson passed away and I have been left to carry on Thordur's wishes. It gives me pleasure to state that up to the end of 1967 we have been able to help 146 different children and should be able to help many more before this fund is exhausted. Many people have told us that this trust is a wonderful thing and almost too good to be true. I think it is a most magnificent monument to the memory of Mr. Thordur Thompson.

HISTORY OF THE FARM S.W. QUARTER 36-36-2 WEST OF 5 by Mrs. Bruce Smith

This farm was the homestead of Mr. Peter Thompson. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were both born in Norway and came to Minnesota and were married there on January 28, 1888. Ted, Bert, Marvin, Ida, Thora and Oscar were all born in Minnesota - later Peter and Goodie were born on the homestead at Markerville.

Their nearest neighbors were Nels Engeseth, Olie Johnsons and Ed Andersons - who all arrived from Duluth Minnesota at the same time the Thompson family came. The family lived there until 1914 when they moved to the Heckla district.

Two sons Marvin and Bert remained at the homestead for a few years, after that it was rented to a number of different families. Those that we remember were the Sam Ennis family, Mr. and Mrs. John Jensen and family, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Olesen and family.

In 1940 the youngest of the Thompson family Mrs. Bruce Smith, her husband and children Donald and Mary took over the farm and lived there until 1959. They moved to Spruce View and rented the land to J.H. Johansson for three years. In 1963 Bruce Smith sold the farm to Clarence Coleman and his wife. The old original house that was built in 1902 still stood (with a few alterations) until 1964 - when Mr. and Mrs. Coleman tore it down, moved part of it away and built a new one in the same spot. Mr. Coleman sold the farm in 1970 to Mr. Harry Nielsen.

MR. AND MRS. PETER THOMPSON by Mrs. Thora Hansen

Our family, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Thompson and six children came to live on the homestead, one half mile north of Markerville, in 1902. We arrived on May 9th and it was a memorable day for the children, at

least. We were excited about seeing Dad who had gone ahead a month or so earlier to build a house and prepare as much as possible for the family. He told in later years that he had been undecided about sending for us; it seemed rather a gamble to bring a family to this new country. On his way to the Post Office at Tindastoll to mail a letter telling my mother when to come, he sat down on a hillside trying to think what might be best, to send the letter and let us come - or tear the letter up. He decided to send it, and was never sorry he had made this decision.

We came by train with a number of other families, fourteen children in all. We were met at the station by the men who had gone on earlier, and Wm. Scott and Mr. Nicholson who each had a team and wagon. It was a beautiful day and the hills were covered with crocuses. The new house seemed wonderful, but I remember we sometimes found snow on the covers of our beds in winter and one morning we found a muskrat in the kitchen.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Anderson stayed with us until they got their house built on Mr. Anderson's homestead, which is the land Mr. and Mrs. Odie Anderson now live on.

Our furniture and effects had been shipped by rail and we wondered why they did not arrive. We found the box-car had been side-tracked in Southern Alberta, but six weeks later they did arrive. A kind neighbor, Mr. Oli Benedictson loaned us a small upright heater, room on top for one kettle or a coffee pot. When it wasn't raining we could use a campfire. The fire in the heater had a great fascination for me; I liked watching the red coals and sparks. One day I was poking at them with a stick and tipped the boiling coffee-pot over my head. My braids and all my hair had to be cut off and I was sure everyone thought that I was a boy.

This was a very wet year, water standing everywhere, but it was all clean and new (there had been no livestock) and we could wade and bathe in the sloughs. My brothers made rafts and we had a good time sailing round on them. Our house was on a knoll and we had to make little bridges to get from one knoll to another. Dad had bought four cows and some chickens. When the calves arrived, of course, they hoped they would be heifer calves so the herd would increase, but there were four bull calves, and I remember my mother saying most of the baby chicks were roosters. Our little group all coming from Duluth, Minn. U.S.A. settled in one area, each family on a quarter section. On May 9th each year while the men were busy on the land, the women and children would gather in the woods on a nearby hill for a picnic celebrating our arrival to this community. The women would visit and knit whilst the children enjoyed themselves with games and fun.

The first Christmas we had a Christmas Tree and programme at the Oli Johnson home. Mrs. Johnson held Sunday School classes in Norwegian in her home each Sunday morning, and occasionally a Norwegian Minister came and held service in one of the homes. Soon a young Methodist student came and held ser-



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Thompson, Sr., and family.

vices and Sunday School alternating from one home to another. The first student was Mr. Bailey. It was not long until the Methodist Church was built beside the house where Mr. and Mrs. Dent now live; and a little one-room parsonage just about the location of Mr. and Mrs. Gremm's residence. Before long a two-story parsonage was built on the corner where the Eirikson house now stands, to house the Ministers and families.

Our school was Hola, about three miles away. In the beginning it was the little log school on the knoll beside the Stephen G. Stephenson home. The School was sometimes closed during the coldest winter months, but I well remember trudging through the snow when it was quite cold. We took it all for granted.

As well as the good times there were also times of concern. Soon after their arrival in Markerville, Mr. Thompson bought a cow from J.M. Johnson. To make the purchase he used his last \$20.00 gold piece. The morning after he brought her home, he found his costly purchase dead on the hillside, victim of a poisonous weed.

The Thompsons still remember the many mornings they woke to find their mother not at home. On these occasions they knew she had been summoned, very often with no advance warning, to deliver a baby. Many of these babies were given names with the initial letter "A", namesakes of Mrs. Thompson whose name was Anne.

At times more serious matters required her capabilities. Millie Johnson, whose home was where the Van Hagas live, became so ill it was necessary to call the doctor. Frank Anderson, drove Dr. D.S. Crawford out to the Johnson's farm. The diagnosis was appendicitis requiring emergency surgery. Mrs. Thompson was called to assist the doctor, so on the Johnson's kitchen table, these two, by the light of a coal oil lamp, performed the operation and saved Millie's life.

Mr. Thompson and another homesteader, Mr. Lepard, in addition to proving their homesteads, freighted supplies from Innisfail for the creamery and the two stores in Markerville. They had the contract to haul butter from the creamery to the railway. In rainy weather or during the spring break-up it was necessary time after time for the men to unload and pack the heavy butter boxes across mud holes or up hills to enable the horses to pull the lightened load through the mire.

By trade, Peter Thompson was a stone mason and laid the foundation for many local buildings, one of which was the Markerville Creamery.

DICK VAN HAGA FAMILY

Dick Van Haga was born in Holland in 1903 and came to Canada in 1928. Eva Hazlett born in Toronto 1914. They married in Washington and lived in Sumas, Prairie and Sullivan Station B.C. Dick worked as foreman on large dairy farms. In 1950 they bought NW36-36-2-W5 from Lloyd Youngstrom and started mixed farming. They had seven children. Marie, Marjorie, Joan, Jan, Eleanor, Tommy, and Beth. During the next eight years three more boys were born, David, Benny and Danny. The girls were all in 4-H. The three boys in scouts and cadets. Eva joined the Good Neighbor club when the children grew and were married. They now have twenty grandchildren including triplets. Dick and Eva now retired, live in Boncanson, Alberta.

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

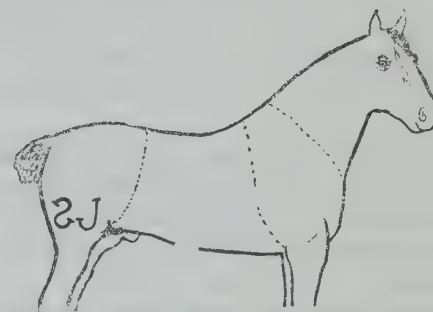
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

C No 2383

Extracts from Record of Brands, L. *H. F. 415* No *14482*.

HORSE BRAND



POSITION

RIGHT

Thigh

RECORDED VENT (IF ANY)

NAME OF OWNER

Sigtriggur Johannson

POST OFFICE ADDRESS

Markerville, Alta.

DATE OF RECORD

27th April 1910

I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of The Brand Ordinances of the North-West Territories and amendments thereto, as it appeared on the *twenty seventh* day of *April* A.D. 1910.

Medicine Hat, Alta., *27th April* 1910.

James D. ...
Recorder of Brands.

NEW HILL

NEW HILL — GENERAL HISTORY

The first settlers came to the New Hill District about the year 1904. As the settlers arrived a need was seen for a school. The settlers couldn't agree on a location for a school and the Department of Education gave authority the school be located on the N.W. 7-37-3-W5. The majority of early settlers were of Swedish descent and the post office was called NYA BACHEN meaning New Land or Hill. When the postal department received this Swedish name they suggested naming it New Hill because of the numerous hills. The school was then given the same name as the post office.

The school was built on land acquired from the homestead of Erich Bergstrom. The construction of the school began in 1911 and was completed in 1912. Nels Linneberg contracted the building of the school for \$600.00 and found out he had bid too low and couldn't make out so he used native tamarack, hewn square with an axe for the sills and floor joints. The studdings are of straight spruce rails also hewed by hand. The foundation was of field stones. He was helped by John Holmgren and John Lander.

pay. Centennial year, March 5 Mutual was taken over by the Alberta Government Telephones and Direct Distance Dialing by underground cables became a reality. New Hill now has toll free communication with about 1,100 phones in and around the Eckville area.

Terry and Nora Linneberg operated a General Store and B.A. gas service for a number of years. The deletion of these small country stores and gas businesses are a great loss to our communities as we not only lose a valued service but a place where we could catch up on the latest news and district activities as well as a place where we could complain about the weather or taxes.

As the old Irvin Berlin sounds out "When The Lights go on again all over the world", this could be said of the district when Calgary Power was turned on in March, 1950. Only a very small south eastern portion received power through the Markerville R.E.A. at this time. The rest of the area was negotiating with the Eckville R.E.A., in hopes of getting hooked up with them, but later was taken over by the Markerville R.E.A. as well.

Another first for the New Hill Area was the fact that the very first oil well to be drilled in the area west of Red Deer in Central Alberta, was drilled in



"Bon Voyage" party for Grandma Donnelly.

The New Hill Telephone Co. was formed in 1918 with 14 members. The line was built to the Hespero store from New Hill and we received our connections to outside lines from the Hespero exchange. This system wasn't successful as the circuits were very noisy. So in 1921, Fred Erickson began an exchange at his home and through this exchange we had connections to Eckville. How wonderful to be able to phone for a Doctor or have ready communication in any emergency. Fred and Mrs. Erickson very faithfully served us until Dec. 1949. At this date the central was taken over by the government and was organized as the New Hill Mutual Telephone Co. This central was then situated near the Linneberg General Store and was operated most of the time by Mrs. Mary Leahy and her daughter Lyla. There were other operators but Mrs. Leahy and Lyla spent most of these years as good and faithful servants with little

the year 1950-1951 on the farm of Henry Linneberg. It was termed a wildcat well having dry gas, not enough for commercial quantities and was plugged and later abandoned. It took five and one half months to drill and was drilled by A.G. Bailey and the Great Plains and Hudson Bay Co. had interests in it as well. It was drilled to a depth of 9,987 feet and was, I'm sure, the greatest point of interest ever in New Hill, as spectators came from all over. Bob Jewell, from Mitchell and Jewell, Red Deer was an interested photographer. As an added attraction, Charlie Grant, one of the motor men on the rig had captured a bear cub and had it there. This was admired by everyone as well. Soon oil wells sprang up all around.

Regret was felt when our Little Red School House closed its doors to learning with the closing of the term, June, 1955. The students were bussed to Con-



Sunday Stampede — Henry Monteith, Elwin and Earl Donnelly, Steinie Budvarson and Gus Sveinbjornson.

dor and Spruce View. The school house was purchased by the district for a community center.

Sports were quite in evidence until later years. New Hill always had a ball team and a skating rink was made at the community center.

The New Hill Ladies Club was formed when Mrs. Charlie Lightfoot and Mrs. Jim Lecerf called on Mrs. Salomon who had a broken leg at the time and the idea of a ladies club began from this meeting. Mrs. Lecerf has been a constant member since its beginning and Mrs. Solland has been a member down through the years. The club has been a real credit to the district in the number of deeds carried out. A 4-H Garden Club was very active as well.

The New Hill School played a double role, as Sunday school and Church services were conducted there. Sunday school was conducted for a number of years and several missionaries held Sunday services, as well the Pastor of Dickson Lutheran Church.

NILS ANDERSON by Mrs. Lilly Holmgren

My uncle, Nils Anderson, was born in Sweden on May 10, 1882, and was a brother to my dad Olof Anderson. He emigrated to Canada in 1907 and homesteaded a quarter of land located SW14-37-4-W5, here in New Hill, Alberta. He built a log house, the logs all hand hewn, and tongue grooved, the windows all hand made.

Nils worked on the building of the Grand Trunk Railway going west from Edmonton to Edson. He also worked in Minnesota U.S.A. where he married Brita Johnson in 1912. He and his new bride came to New Hill to reside on his farm. Brita was a quiet type of person, but a lady who was very well liked by all relatives and neighbors. She was a wonderful seamstress and also did beautiful embroidery. Unfortunately she had poor health, and in 1915, Nils accompanied his wife back to her former home in Minnesota, U.S.A. where she died a year later.

Nils remained there and worked in the ship yards at Duluth during the first World War. He returned to Alberta about 1922, later helping to build country elevators in Saskatchewan and Alberta, before returning to his farm in 1935. He also helped with the building of Central hall and took a great interest in all the activities held there and enjoyed dancing. He enjoyed the company of his fellow neighbors, friends and relatives. He cleared his land with axe and grub hoe and then broke the sod, making it possible to do grain farming. All his farming operations were done with horse drawn machinery as he never owned a tractor. He enjoyed gardening and planted trees and shrubs in his yard. In 1940 he sold his farm to the present owner Holmfrid B. Holmgren. Nils moved to British Columbia where he bought a home near New Westminster. Soon he sold it and moved to Van-

couver where he worked in the ship yards during the second World War.

Later he built himself a home at Madeira Park, north of Vancouver, where he retired. However, during the time he lived there, he helped build a large dance hall and took an active interest in this as long as his health permitted. He owned a small motor boat and enjoyed his trips out on the coastal waters to do some fishing. In 1964 he sold this home because his health had failed, and lived with his niece, Mrs. Christina Greenwell, of North Vancouver where he remained until his death in 1965. He was cremated and the ashes were buried in the Diamond Valley Cemetery.

OLOF ANDERSON — Written by daughter Lilly (Mrs. Austin Holmgren)

My dad, Olof Anderson, was born in Jemmland, Sweden on June 7, 1877. During his childhood, it was very difficult for the poorer class of people to make a living, and it was a common practice for children between the age of 8 and 12 years to leave home and make their own living. Dad at the age of 8 years, had to herd cattle and goats during grazing season and in winter months help look after the cattle at the barn. As he grew older, he helped to put up hay by hand with scythe and rake. While doing timber work he accidentally cut his knee cap with an axe, and as a result he was left with a stiff leg. During his childhood he received six weeks of schooling where he learned to read and write and do some arithmetic as well as some Bible study. He continued to educate himself by reading and by learning the trade of shoe making. He became more interested in carpentry and furniture making, and this became his trade.

My mother, Kristina Martinson was born at Strem-sund, Sweden March 25, 1881. She at the age of 8 years acted as baby sitter for younger children at the home where she stayed. She herded cattle in the summer and helped hay by hand with scythe and rake. A great deal of time was spent carding and spinning wool into yarn. All socks and mitts were knit from this yarn and the very fine yarn was woven into material for wearing apparel and bedding. A large enough supply of bedding was kept on hand so that it was only necessary to wash this bedding twice a year. This was done by the lake side. Large quantities of bread was baked at one time in a large fire place type oven. Fish, salt pork and potatoes were staple foods. Mother had 6 weeks of schooling, like my dad. On Nov. 5, 1899 she and dad were married. Mother had spun the yarn and woven the material for Dad's suit that he wore when they were married. After she had woven the fine material, it was taken to a taylor where it was dyed and made into the suit.

Their daughter, Christina was born in 1901.

Victor was born in 1903 and Olof in 1905. Then the twins Jonas Wilfred and Nils were born in 1908.

At this time Dad's brother Nils Anderson who had come to New Hill, in 1907, wrote letters to Dad telling him of the wonderful opportunity to get good land very cheap by coming here and getting a homestead. After receiving several letters suggesting

he sell his business and tools, Dad did this and took his mother, his wife and family and sailed for Canada.

The ship was small and over crowded with emigrant passengers. Dad was allotted one small room with one small bed for the entire family. Dad's mother who had been sickly for some time, had the bed, the rest of the family slept on the floor. They encountered rough seas from storms and nearly all passengers were sea sick.

Arriving in Canada, they travelled by train to Red Deer where Dad's brother, Nils, was supposed to meet them. It was early in April 1909. Nils who had gone to Red Deer, had a runaway with his team and wagon when he arrived in town, broke his wagon, broke a telephone pole in town and caused some other damage, and had to sell one of his horses to pay for damages done. He then had left town in an attempt to try to borrow or get another horse so he could bring Dad and family home to his place. As it was, Mother and Dad and family spent the night at the Arlington Hotel, which still is in use in Red Deer. The next day Dad met Mr. Cronquist who took Dad and family to his large red brick house south of town by the old Calgary-Edmonton trail.

Three days after their arrival at Red Deer, the twin son, Nils died. The trip had been too much for the tiny baby.

They homesteaded NE15-37-4-W5, in the New Hill district, built a house and later a hand hewn log barn. They must buy horses and get a start in cattle. To do this, they had to get work elsewhere to earn money to buy them. During the years that followed Dad worked at several jobs. He walked many times back and forth to Nordegg where he helped build houses. He walked across country as there were no roads. Often he had to walk through deep snow with his stiff leg and this was no easy task. On one occasion, after walking home from Nordegg, he found he had received a business letter which required him to then walk to Red Deer. He also worked on the building of the Alberta Central Railroad between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, as well as on the Grand Trunk Railway west from Edmonton. The photo I have of them shows how this was built by pick, shovel, and wheelbarrows to move all dirt and rocks. He was also with those that worked on the Connaught Tunnel in B.C. He helped build some of the homes and barns in New Hill and surrounding districts as well as helped on the New Hill school.

While living in New Hill, Hedwin was born, also Ina and Herman..

Cream was churned into butter at home, and using a butter mold this was shaped into one pound pieces, then wrapped in butter wrapping paper. This butter, as well as eggs, were taken to the store to be exchanged for groceries. Later Pitcox general store by Hespero was a place for shopping. During the first World War, buying groceries became a bit of a problem as the Government passed a regulation that if any one wanted to buy flour, he must buy a certain amount of other items as well, such as corn meal,

rice, etc. The reason for this regulation was that the Government was trying to save wheat. Most people felt they couldn't afford to buy other than necessary staple foods. I think mother said flour was over \$8.00 for a 98 pound bag.

Dad was the first man to buy a seed drill in New Hill. He also was the first man to have Bob Wilson come and thresh the grain off his small field. This threshing machine was not run by a belt loading to a tractor for power as later models were. This one was powered by 12 head of horses going around in a circle. It was a hand feeder type and straw was taken away by hand from the straw carrier. Many of the local neighbors came to Dad's home to watch this threshing done. Dad was filled with real happiness to have finally been able to get his start in grain farming. The fall of 1918, Dad bought 3 quarters of C.P.R. land located three miles south of Hespero Corner. In the spring of 1919 he moved his house and barn to this new land. They had to be taken apart and moved in sections. Moving to the new place, Dad sold his land in New Hill to Charlie Lightfoot who in later years sold it to the present owner Wm. Shippelt Jr.

In 1919, daughter Lilly was born.

A few years later illness struck the family. Ina had been taken to all the Drs. in the vicinity but they were not able to diagnose the disease and she gradually grew worse. Mrs. "Doc" Caton suggested Dad take the 7 year old girl to the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota, U.S.A. His reply had been that he would take her that very day if only he were financially able to. Then the neighbors arranged a box social to help raise necessary money. All the neighbors in the area and New Hill came to help. Those who couldn't come, donated much needed cream cheques. At Rochester the disease was diagnosed as Epileptic disease caused by a blood clot at the brain. She was sent home and was to be treated by medicine which was to be changed as she progressed. Dad was not able to write English, so Mrs. "Doc" Caton kindly did all the corresponding to the Mayo Clinic reporting Ina's symptoms and progress. Thanks to the help of neighbors and the Drs., Ina was completely cured. At the age of 16 Ina became ill with Spinal Meningitis. At that time this was considered a very serious disease and we were quarantined for two weeks. In order to get groceries we had to telephone the store, give them a list of needed groceries and then when some one came who would be going past our place, the groceries would be sent with him. He had to leave the groceries at our gate. Then and only then, after they were gone, were we allowed to go and bring the groceries in. Ina suffered great pain as the disease caused her head to be drawn back between her shoulders and her legs drawn back to form her in an arc position. Every day the Dr. arrived at 11 A.M. sharp to drain fluid from her spine. Then she would be fairly comfortable until more fluid formed. The poplar board floors had to be scrubbed thoroughly every day and disinfectants were a must. At the end of two weeks, when Ina was feeling better,

we had to live in a granary for a day and night while the house was fumigated with formaldehyde. Then the quarantine was lifted. It was common practise to quarantine for all communicable diseases.

Funerals at this time were considerably less expensive than now, as most people did not have funeral homes handle them. It was done by family and neighbors. Dad made many caskets. They were shaped like the bought ones of today but were covered with black sateen material and lined inside with white sateen material. Black was the color most used at that time. In Aug. 1928 son Victor died.

I believe Dad and Mother's greatest pleasures were their family and having neighbors come and visit and perhaps a game of cards (whist). They, as well as everyone else, really enjoyed the school Christmas concerts. The children made their own sleds and other toys. The house was heated with a round air tight heater in which you burned large blocks of wood. The stove in the kitchen acted as a heating unit as well as for cooking and they used split wood in it. The children had to bring in large piles of split wood and blocks every day in the winter months. They used ordinary kerosene lamps and later used the Aladdin lamps which gave a brighter light.

All the children were born in their own home. A doctor was never called but sometimes Mother did have a mid-wife if one was available. Mother herself was often called to act as mid-wife in other homes. In fact, one time when Dr. Summerville called her to assist him at another home, mother was reluctant to go as she felt she was needed at home. He informed her that since she had the knowledge by experience, she had no right to refuse. She was supposed to help at time of birth and then remain to care for baby and mother as long as needed. Mother did go again.

At 70 years of age Dad built two new houses. Shortly after this he sold the farm to G. Huss and he and mother retired to Salmon Arm, B.C. They lived there about two years, then sold that home and returned to Sylvan Lake, Alberta, where they lived until Dad passed away at his home on his 75th birthday, June 7, 1952. Mother sold their house at Sylvan Lake and she spent her remaining days with her children. She passed away June 21, 1964. Son Herman died May 26, 1967.

LLOYD E. BENTLEY

Lloyd Bentley, known to his friends as "Bent", was born at Weston, Iowa in 1901. He came to Blackie, Alberta, March 14, 1914, and remembers landing on the bald prairie and seeing the gophers and no snow. But two days later he saw his first Alberta snowstorm.

In 1933 Bent bought an open C.P.R. quarter, SW19-37-3-W5, and has been the only occupant to date.

He is a member of the F.U.A. and an active community helper with all achievements. His time has been divided between caring for his parents and farming at New Hill. His mother now resides in Rocky View Lodge at Crossfield.

Lloyd recalls one summer he was haying with Donnellys, when one of those unexpected rain clouds

came up. Earl Donnelly summoned his hay crew as he felt they should get the horses to the barn, as they were afraid of hail. They started to his farm, less than half a mile away when it began to come down. They travelled this distance as fast as the horses could go but there were six inches of water in the wagon box when they arrived.

H. BERGH — R. OLSON

The quarter Sadlers lived on was sold to Rune Olson while the other quarter was sold to Henry Bergh. Henry and Rune were returned soldiers and were cousins.

Henry bought a small house and built up a nice farm site on the north quarter while Rune and his parents lived in the Sadler house. Rune married Doris Heare from Raven and they sold the farm to Elmer Haupt. Rune and Doris moved to Red Deer.

Henry's mother from Calgary, came to be with him. Henry and his mother were excellent neighbors. Henry gave the district a real surprise when he married Mrs. Oral Crowley from Kenora, Ontario. Although a romance had been suspected, Henry had kept it very secret. Not too long after his marriage Henry, Oral and Grandma Bergh went to live on a farm Henry bought in the Blue Bell District; although they are not too far away they are missed because of their good neighbourly qualities.

Mrs. Bergh had three sons, one of whom lives in Spruce View. Robert (Bob) Crowley, works at Adams Service. He married Karen Bergin and they have one son.

BRANDSON HISTORY

My father Gudbrandur Gudbrandson, or Brandur Brandson as he was better known in this country, was born March 28, 1872 at Lindadal Iceland. He became an orphan at a very early age and was put in an orphanage until he was 14 years old. He then had to go out and fend for himself. He hired out to farmers to herd sheep in the summer, and soon decided to hire on as a fisherman and this he did for many years.

My mother Sigridur Brandson was born Jan. 21, 1876 at Hrisum Iceland. She first married Haldor Halldorson. By this marriage she had 3 sons. Her husband passed away while still young. My father married her in 1905. They had 4 children, Marino born in 1907, Joe in 1908, Rose in 1910 and the youngest Laurie was born in 1912. The folks were quite poor, but by 1913 they had saved enough money to emigrate to Canada bringing the four youngest children with them. The three older boys stayed with their grandmother. Dad hoped to soon be able to send for them, but this was one of the things he was never able to do. We spent a month on the ocean and to get as far as Winnipeg.

Mother's cousin, Mrs. Joseph Stephenson, sent us the money to come from Winnipeg to Markerville as our money had run out. We lived with the Stephensons for one month until dad found a place to rent about a mile north of Markerville NE34-37-2. Our nearest neighbors were Barney Johnson's family and

Rev. Hjalmsen, the Lutheran minister. These were grand people and so kind to us new comers, Dad got work for a dollar a day. Out of this he saved to pay our debt to the Stephensons. This did not leave us much for food and clothes.

This place was on the river bank and we had to get our wash water from the river. We children were warned by our folks never to go down this foot path as it was very steep. Some of the young folks had given us some toys, among them a doll buggy. Laurie loved to push this around outside. One Sunday mother had us all in the house listening to her read the Bible (this was a must in our home every Sunday after chores). Laurie disappeared, and when the lesson was over, we all went out to look for him. We rushed to the river where we found the buggy in the edge of the river. This made us fear that he had drowned, and mother rushed to John Johnson's home to get help. We kept looking around and found him asleep in a manger in the barn. You can imagine our joy and shouts as we ran to meet mother and the Johnsons. He had been afraid to come and tell us that he had let the buggy fall into the water, and decided to hide, soon to fall asleep. When dad came home that evening he decided this was not a safe place for small children. When Marino and Joe started school at Markerville, they did not know one word in English. As they learned the words they would come home and teach us. At this time mother was getting very sick and finally our neighbor Mrs. Triggva Johansson sent for Dr. Wagner. He told mother that she had malnutrition from lack of food. Friends and neighbors gathered food and clothes for us all as soon as they realized we were so hard up. Fredda Einerson came and took care of us the whole month that mother was too weak to work. Fredda (Olson), is one of those wonderful people who is always ready to lend a helping hand. In 1916 Dad and Gream Budvarson decided to get homesteads. They went to New Hill and filed on these farms: NE10-37-4-W5; and Gream NW10-37-4-5. They built shacks and we were ready to move. This was a rainy year and our first day travelling we got as far as John Budvarson's home where we spent the night. It took all next day to go the few miles that were left. But we were happy to have a place of our own and got busy picking moss to chink the log shack to get ready for winter. Moss was plentiful as half of our place was muskeg. Dad did some breaking and the following spring we planted a garden. But both summer and fall there was frost. So all we got were a few marbles called potatoes. So Dad had to go out to work again to keep the wolf from the door. Our neighbors, Linnebergs, Holmgrens, Shippelts, Cave and Lightfoot were not much better off then we were. My schooling did not start until 1917 as we had to go 3 miles to school and walk most of the time. Dad would bring sheep from many of the farmers in Markerville to pasture, as there was lots of open land at this time. But we children had to herd them to keep them out of neighbor's fields, 4 or 5 hundred sheep can do a lot of damage. Some paid us in money and others gave us lambs. So we started a

flock of our own. This all helped and as mother had always been able to spin and knit this was one way of keeping us in warm foot wear, mitts and sweaters. In the evening we would card the wool and mother could spin and knit. We then had to shrink all she knit. This is to make them thicker and warmer. If dad was home he would read stories to us and the evenings passed in a hurry. We often played cards. When the folks were busy we children would cut out people out of the catalogue, also machinery and what not, pretend that we were big farmers, and all these people worked for us. We treasured these as much as some children do their expensive toys today.

Everybody was short of feed in 1919-20 and Dad had to come home to get feed for our stock and he and Marino went ten miles to dig bundles out of snow drifts. One hundred to the load was load enough for the horses as the snow was so deep. They had to pay 25 cents a bundle. The mice had eaten all the grain out of them. We even cut little fine willow brush to feed the cows and horses. There was no money to buy grain. We did not lose any animals but they sure were thin by spring.

Quite often when it was cold and stormy, we would not have much coal oil so, we would open the front fire box on the stove and the folks would tell us stories. We often would sit by the hour this way. All warm and happy. Mother could knit, so time was not wasted. In 1925 I quit school and went out to work at 5 dollars a month. The older boys would work away from home off and on. In the early 20's we got 25 cents a can for hauling cream to Eckville. A can of cream was worth \$1.50 for a five gallon can but we only hauled in the summer months. By 1928 mother was so discouraged with everything that she wanted us to have a sale and go to Manitoba where she had some friends. We had the sale but mother and Laurie were the only ones that left. We had good jobs and wanted to stay among our friends. In 1931 Laurie came back to Alberta and mother left for Iceland and is still living with her son there. She still knits socks and mitts, and writes her own letters and she is 93 years old.

I was married to Loran Clay of Stauffer and had 3 sons. Gerald, who has taken over our farm for us, is married and has 4 sons. Everett married Frances Edl of Evergreen and they had 2 sons. He died in 1959 at the age of 28 years. Cyrus died in 1935.

Marino and Joe bought farms at Stauffer and had a double wedding. They were married to Lula and Mary Taylor in 1937. Marino has 3 children. Twylla married Frank Piller and they bought Marino's farm. They have 4 daughters. Sandra, Mrs. Donald Swartz, has one daughter and one son. They live in Victoria. Boyd is still at home.

Joe and Lula have 4 children. Phyllis married Windham Lind. He was killed in a car accident six months later. They had a daughter. She later married Glenn Knieper and they bought a farm at Stauffer and have 3 more children. Louise, (Mrs. Rolf Peterson) lives at Abbotsford, B.C. where they have a mink farm. Leonard married Margaret Marks and is a

mechanic at Olds and has 2 sons. Ellery married Pat Walker. They live in Red Deer and have a son and one daughter.

Laurie is a bachelor and works for Kasha Farm Supplies at Eckville.

Dad became blind in 1938 and spent the rest of his years mostly with Joe and me, six months at each place. He died Feb. 28, 1964, a month before his 92nd birthday.

JOSEPH BRZAK FAMILY — by Mrs. Chas. Brzak

Joseph Brzak Sr. was born March 25, 1874 in northern Bohemia, which is now part of Czechoslovakia. He grew up there and his occupation was that of a wheelwright. He married Mary Slavik in 1898 and they had a son Joseph, born in 1899. When young Joseph was 6-1/2 years old, his mother passed away.

Mr. Brzak spent some time in the army as service was compulsory there.

In 1908 Mr. Brzak decided to come to Canada, so he left young Joseph in the care of his grandmother and set out.

He arrived in Halifax, and then proceeded west to the Crowsnest Pass where he spent the best part of three years in the mines. In 1911 he came up to the Red Deer area and filed on his homestead which is 23-37-4-W5.

He cleared some land, got some good logs, squared them and built a log house 13 x 24. It took just 19 days to erect this house and it is still in use. He didn't plaster the inside walls but chinked the logs well with moss.

During the next two years he alternately cleared land and worked in the mine at Nordegg. Once, in 1912 he and a neighbour, John Mottl, Sr., came down the Saskatchewan river about 25 or 30 miles by raft.

In 1913, he returned to Europe and came back here the same year with his son Joseph, then 13.

He and his son farmed on the homestead for the next three years. They procured two oxen from the Siebert family of the Gaetz district and also bought one cow and one heifer at an auction.

In 1922 Joseph, the son, bought a quarter of land northwest of the homestead.

In 1923 Mr. Brzak married for the second time. His second wife's maiden name was Betty Mudra and she was born, April 10, 1885 in Bohemia. She came out to this country after a lengthy correspondence with Mr. Brzak. She had worked ever since she was 13 years, as a domestic, and proved to be an excellent cook.

When she arrived she took over the little 13 x 24 log house and turned it into a home. How she learned to plaster is a mystery but she plastered the inside walls with a mixture of clay, lime, and finely chopped straw.

Charles Brzak was born in 1925.

There was much work on the farm. They milked as many as nine cows. Sometimes it took Mr. Brzak or his wife hours to find the cows as there were few farms fenced then. He also bought NW19-37-2-W5.

In 1927 a tornado took the roof and some of the top logs off the barn so the rest of it was dismantled and put together again in a different location.

Joseph Jr. married Charlotte Dennis and they raised seven children, Nellie, Henry, Margaret, Jerry, Harry, Josephine, and Kenneth. They are all married except the youngest, Kenneth.

Mr. Brzak Sr., was a good carpenter, and as well as making his own log houses, and outbuildings, made a good deal of the furniture for the home, also certain wooden cooking utensils. All these articles are still good and strong today.

There was an orchestra that used to play around the country and they would practice at different homes. One night they came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brzak, and played until the windows fairly shook, as the orchestra consisted of eight players led by a Mr. Hopkins (Czech name Mr. Chmelina).

The ensuing years were lean ones because of the depression, but the family always ate well, thanks to Mrs. Brzak's ability to make appetizing meals out of very little. She made noodles and used them in different ways. When prune plums were in season she'd make prune dumplings, a favorite Czech main dish. She was a great collector of herbs and would go out around the place gathering nettles, dandelion greens, and other plants and dried them to make a green tea.

They also kept geese and many winter evenings were spent in preparing the down to be used as fillings for feather ticks and pillows.

Charles Brzak married Margaret Irving, from Vancouver, Charles took over the operation of the farm from his father. They have five children, Charles, Emily, Robert, Betty and David.

Joseph Brzak Sr., passed away in 1953 and Mrs. Brzak passed away in 1963.

In September 1964 the old log barn burned down to the ground early one morning. The cause was probably a defect in the wiring. Fortunately there was no stock inside at the time.

JOHN BUDVARSON

An early settler of the New Hill district was John Budvarson. Born in Iceland in 1866, it was many years before the thought of leaving his homeland came to him. Like many of his countrymen in this rugged island home, he grew up with a love of the sea, and it was quite natural as he grew older that he chose the life of a fisherman. He married Halla Arngrimsdottir whose father farmed in the little community of Smirlholi. His mother was one of the early Icelandic settlers in Alberta, having come to the Pine Hill district in 1898 with her husband Gudmundur Illugason. They lived on a quarter of the section where the Pine Hill Hutterite colony now stands. It was his mother who urged him to come to Canada and make a new home for himself. Her letters must have been persuasive, for in June of 1905, he left the sea, and with his wife and family of five youngsters, set out for Canada and a new life. The voyage was a trying experience. For many days they were held up by heavy fog and icebergs, unable to move in any direction and it was five weeks before they arrived at



Budvarson Family — Back Row: Emil, Ella, Kristie, Margaret, Olive, Joe. Front: Valdi, Mrs. Budvarson, Steinie, Gream. Inset — John Budvarson.

their destination. The trials of this period were vivid memories to Mrs. Budvarson all the days of her life.

On the first day of August, 1905, they arrived in Innisfail. Here they were met by Julius Bardal, who loaded them into his democrat, bag and baggage, and started on the dusty trail to Pine Hill. It was their first acquaintance with such a vehicle or with the fiery team of cayuses which provided the power, and the trip was long remembered. For the next four years they made their home in the Pine Hill and Tindastoll districts and John worked for different farmers until he could save enough money to purchase a homestead and some equipment of his own.

In those first years, bad luck was a frequent visitor. Johanna a three year old daughter, was stricken with appendicitis and died. She was buried in the Icelandic cemetery at Tindastoll. John himself, broke his arm, which never healed and bothered him all the rest of his life. During this time he bought his homestead in the New Hill district, NW32-36-3-W5, the property now owned by Alex Wolf. He spent what spare time he had in building a log house and barns, and preparing to move his family. In 1909, the move was made. Dan McGrandle had logged this land and left large spruce stumps on much of it. The rest of the land was mainly sloughs and muskegs, and so he made his living by raising livestock. The land was cleared entirely by axe. Those able to use an axe assisted with the brushing. Those who could not, helped by piling the brush for burning. The living was hard, but no one went hungry or cold.

Five more children were born to the Budvarsons. All were confirmed in the Lutheran church at Markerville by the Rev. Peter Hjalmsen, who lived at Markerville for many years and christened many of the grandchildren.

In the early days when a doctor was needed, he came by democrat from Red Deer. The older boys can remember shooting partridges and presenting them to the doctor as a token of goodwill. All was not work on the homestead. During the slacker times of winter there were many gatherings at the neighbors for dancing or card parties. Music was provided by anyone who could play a tune on violin, banjo or jews harp. The local Christmas concert was a much anticipated event each year. During the summer, picnics and ball games provided a break for all.

The nearest neighbors were the Sveinbjornsons, Gislasons, Bill Sadlers and Sam Montieths. Mr. Budvarson passed away on June 3, 1936. His wife Halla lived on until the age of ninety-four, passing away at Eckville on March 13, 1966. She befriended all who knew her and her hospitality was famous far and wide. Serving coffee, to all who visited her home, was a task dear to her heart. Both are buried in the family plot at Tindastoll.

The family consisted of five sons and five daughters, eight of whom are still living, most of them near by.

They are as follows: Arngrimur (Greame) of Craig, Margaret (Mrs. Orla Neilsen) of Diamond Valley, Steinie of the Craig district, Olive (Mrs. Verne Perry) of Eckville, Johanna, passed away in 1907, Joe of Eckville passed away in May of 1972, Ella (Mrs. Steve Reighley) of Red Deer, Kristie (Mrs. Royal Raymond) of Happy Hill, Valdi of Calgary, and Emil of Spruce View.

E. DARBYSHIRE FAMILY and others who lived on E1/2-17-37

This land was homesteaded in 1902 — the S.E. quarter by Mr. Ramsdale, the N.E. quarter by Mr. Sheaffer. Mr. Sheaffer never lived on this land as at that time he could live within nine miles and still prove up. He lived on Sec. 7-T38.

T.G. Haggerty moved here in 1914. He was a married man of some means and made many improvements. He owned a Clydesdale stallion which he traveled through the area each summer. Earl Donnelly remembers riding the "stage coach" from Innisfail with Mr. Haggerty to New Hill, about 29 miles. Fare was \$1.50 per person. They pushed the "coach", a Ford car, up every hill.

Bob Wilson moved here in 1919. He was married to Cicelia Stevenson of Markerville and had three children Sylvia, Chester and Gerald. Bob was a real old time cowboy and quite a character. He had a roan bronco which he rode at the first Calgary Stampede. Some believe this is the "Strawberry Roan" referred to in Wilf Carter's song. Another neighbor, Jack Mayhew, also rode in the first Calgary Stampede. Mrs. Wilson rode broncos too and lost her life as a result of an injury inflicted while helping Bob break one. Bob later married his housekeeper, Mrs. Williams. They moved to Camrose where they lived until Bob's passing.

A family, named Currie came next about 1925. They left in 1936 when E.I. Erickson and family moved in. Erik is a graduate of Olds Agricultural School. Emily, his wife, lost a leg while living here but that never seemed to slow her activities. She is still active in helping Inger with the machinery, planting and harvesting.

In 1943 the Earl Hanson family came. Mrs. Hanson taught at the Blue Bell school. They farmed here until 1946 when the Darbyshires bought the land.

Edgar Darbyshire and Isabelle Willsie were married at Flin Flon, Manitoba, in 1934. Edgar was born in Wales and came to Canada in 1910 with his parents. Isabelle was born in Moose Jaw, Sask.

They came to Craig in 1945, where they had friends, Mickey and Teddy McLean, whom they knew in Flin Flon. They got permission to live in Fred Holbrook's buildings until they moved to New Hill.

They got the land from Frank Friege in Calgary paying \$8000 for the half section. They had two cows which gave them many trying times as they were green in knowing how to handle them. Their team of horses ran away several times before the horses got used to their antics. They turned out to be very faithful, especially for hauling kids to school.

The house was built before 1920, of hand hewn logs. The cross beams under the floor are tamarack — as solid as the day they were cut down. During a hail storm in 1957 they lost most of their west window panes and shingles. They measured some stones, the largest was 7-1/2 inches around.

Isabelle was one of the original members of the Wild Rose W.I. at Craig and now a member of the New Hill Sewing Club.

The family consisted of:

Lola married Jonas H. Hunford and had three children, Janice, Steven and Heather. They live at Carstairs. June (Mrs. Lenard Phelps) lives at Entwistle. They have three children Clayton, Constance and Lorna. Dawn is at High Prairie. David is married and lives on the home farm. They have three children, Dennis, Mona and Colleen. Susan (Mrs. Ray Eggenberger) lives at Entwistle and has one daughter, Carolanne.

WILLIAM EARL DONNELLY — by W.E. Donnelly.

I, William Earl Donnelly was born at Huntingdon, Quebec, September 6, 1893. Of Irish descent my mother's folks came in a sailing ship and was thirteen weeks crossing the ocean. My father's ancestors came from Belfast and arrived at our farm in Huntingdon Quebec in 1830. The land there was very swampy and covered with heavy bush. Being young and having the urge to roam and also hearing about the golden opportunities in the west I left my home in Quebec and started out west. I arrived in Red Deer March 20, 1911. Seven days later I started my first job in this land of opportunity. My job was driving the surveyors who were measuring the land for the Alberta Central Railway, now known as the C.N.R. I drove these surveyors to work in the morning and brought them back at night. The taxi I was driving was a team and democrat. We reached Rocky Mountain House on April 20 and as this was the end of the surveying I took the team and democrat back to their owner, Oliver Smith.

I got a job with the Railroad Surveyors as tail chainer and worked west to Nordegg. After spending two years here and realizing that with a goodly amount of work this could be a land of opportunity, I went back to Huntingdon, Quebec. On March 10, 1914 I left Huntingdon with a carload of settlers effects.

Thirteen days later I arrived in Red Deer. My carload of settlers effects consisted of seven young

cows, three horses, a mower, a rake, a wagon, harness, a dog, and small tools. In those days this was considered a fairly good line of machinery. My bed in the box car was made on the wagon suspended from the box car ceiling. This unusual bed, up above the animals, made for very restful nights.

The dog I brought out with me did not stay with me for when I finally got settled on my homestead at New Hill, he left, and later turned up at Bill Stringers where he continued to make his home.

When the stock was unloaded from the boxcar in Red Deer, the smaller articles were put on the wagon and the cattle were chased out by way of the Burnt Lake trail and Evarts. The livestock stood the trip well. I had no place to live so had to move a log shack from a quarter of land my father had bought known as the Burns Ranch. My homestead was heavy bush but in those days we were all in the same boat so clearing had to be done with a grub hoe or axe. I was the fifth one to file on my homestead as four others before me hadn't been able to meet their commitments.



Earl Donnelly, Jack Leahy, Elwin Donnelly, Billy Stewart. Old stacking crate in back.

In 1917 my brother Elwin came to farm with me in partnership. My present home is located on the NE6-37-3-W5, which is the homestead of John Burns, Junior. The Burns' had homesteaded early in the century and had secured the open land in order to run sheep. At that time all the odd numbered sections were held by the C.P.R. A trade was made with the government, trading the odd sections that were more than 25 miles from the railroad on the Calgary-Edmonton line. These odd sections were swapped for a solid block of land at Brooks where irrigation was to be put in. When this came about in the late fall of 1910, the Burns' sold their ranch to my father and left for Southern Alberta. In 1918 my father turned NE6-37-3-W5 over to me and NW6-37-3-W5 over to Elwin. Elwin and I farmed in partnership until 1963. Elwin remained a bachelor but I married Mabel Pratt of New Hill. My wife Mabel was born in Leeds, England, July 9, 1904 and came to Innisfail in 1907 and New Hill in 1914.

We had four children: Mary died in infancy. Alan farms the family farm. Marion is Mrs. Helmut Lemke of New Hill. They have two daughters Cheryl and Joanne.

Marjorie is Mrs. Walter Haupt. They have three children Ricky, Debby and Terry. Marjorie and her family live on a quarter of land Elwin Donnelly had bought at a tax sale that had originally been homesteaded by Anton Swartz. Anton Swartz had made some good log buildings prior to 1915 and these buildings stand good and sound today. These good tamarack logs had been cut right on that quarter.

Times were very hard in the earlier days but with the willingness and cooperation we were never stuck. Bill Stringer was approached often on legal matters as he was well educated and wrote letters for those unable to write their own and also officially registered the births and deaths.

Until the past winter of 1968-1969 we always claimed the winter of 1919-1920 as being the worst on record. The latter was one of severe hardships. There was a lot of snow and drifting. Cattle feed was critically scarce and for the fortunate ones who had it to sell, a good profit was made.

In March of 1951 we had the worst snow storm I can remember. In a few short hours roads were completely blocked. The road past the New Hill School was drifted so badly there was not much of the telephone poles above the drifts. We had our road blocked for three weeks in this storm and then the only thing that could open it was a dozer.

People were more contented then and competition was not in evidence as it is today.

Our closest stores were Hespero or Evarts and the roads were hardly passable. I recall when teams were hauling the desks and supplies from Red Deer by way of Burnt Lake, and Evarts to the New Hill School. I was stuck with a team and wagon in a mud hole by the old Indian School, west of Red Deer, when Sam Montieth came along with a load of supplies. Sam helped me out of this mud hole. It was not uncommon to see anyone stuck with their teams and democrats. People worked more cooperatively as with gathering together to saw wood or in the fall in threshing time. Our district prospered well but today sees very few of the original pioneers here. My brother Elwin passed away January 13, 1967 and is laid to rest in the Diamond Valley Cemetery.

Our son Alan farms the family farm now.

ERIC ENGMAN

Eric Engman was born in Sweden on Sept. 18, 1864 and married Eva Aling who was born April 13, 1875. They lived in Sweden until 1909 when Eric immigrated to Canada, coming to the Red Deer district. He worked on railroad and road construction during the summer and during the winter at logging.

In 1911 his family joined him and they homesteaded SW9-37-3 where they lived until their passing, Mr. Engman in 1931 and Mrs. Engman in 1946. Both were laid to rest in the Diamond Valley cemetery.

Their children were all born in Sweden, except George who was born in Alberta.

Astrid (Mrs. Levi Erickson) resides in Burnt Lake district.

Hilding R. married Evelyn Bystrom and they live east of Lacombe. He served with the Armed Forces in various countries from 1940 until Christmas 1945.

Carl married Alice Halvorson and they live in Red Deer after farming many years at Burnt Lake. He passed away in 1968.

Tycko married Louise Hoven and lives in New Hill. They have one daughter Marie.

George married Valeria Dobia and they live on the original homestead. They have four sons, Duane, Leslie, Gregory and Maurice.

The homesteader's life was hard work and small pay. The land had a lot of heavy timber and all the clearing had to be done with an axe and grub hoe. The land was broken with a walking plow and four horses. After breaking the land there always was the job of root picking during the first couple of years. After the land was brought into production, the soil was very productive and is still producing some of the heaviest crops of the area.

Mrs. Engman was a first class seamstress and her nimble fingers were able to make any style or design from cloth.

Mr. Engman was an expert with an axe and all the original buildings were made of logs all hewn by hand. One of the original buildings, a granary which was used for various purposes still stands on the old homestead. It served as sleeping quarters when the family came home, a storage place otherwise.

Many social evenings were held in it, when neighbors would gather to spend an evening of dancing. Music was generally supplied by Hilding Engman on the accordion, and Ernest Ostergren on the violin.

Mrs. Engman was also a crack shot with a rifle. On one occasion a lynx came into the yard and Mrs. Engman could only find one shell for the .22 calibre rifle and that was all that she needed to kill the lynx.

Mr. Engman was a great walker, and would rather walk than ride a horse. On several occasions he walked from Rocky Mountain House to his home, without stopping on the way.

ERIK I. ERICKSON by Erik I. Erickson

I was born in Sweden April 10, 1908 and came to Canada by the Cunard Line Steamer in 1912. I married Emily Johnston of Leslieville. I was an active member of the Eckville Co-Op as well as the United Grain Growers at Benalto. Both Emily and I were very active members of the Benalto Baptist Church.

My paternal grandfather Erik Henrickson emigrated from Sweden in 1903, coming to the Evarts district, and homesteaded SW28-37-3-W5 at the age of fifty years. Having been retired from the Swedish Permanent Army he was pensioned on an annual pension of around \$20.00!! With him came his wife and younger members of the family. A son, Hjalmar homesteaded NE20-37-3-W5, later selling this to G.W. Smith of Red Deer, who sold in 1916 to my father, Aaron Erickson. Here is an interesting note: "My grandfather's name was Erik Henrickson. According to traditional Scandinavian custom, instead of using a family name, the sons in the family took

their fathers christian name adding the suffix "son" thus the name Erickson.

The year following, 1904, the oldest son of grandfather Henrickson, N.F. (Fred) Erickson, and his family came, homesteading NW32-37-3-W5. He worked at carpentry work for about 12 years. In 1920, he was largely responsible for organizing the first telephone company in the area, which later grew into the Erixon telephone central, with eight lines coming into it. The first telephone, via fence barb wire, connected the homes of Fred Erickson, Charlie Miller and Aaron Erickson, in 1917. The rings were one, two and three long respectively. Later more joined, among them councillor W.H. Stringer. As each new member joined an extra signal was added. Five or six long rings made quite an impressive call.

The original Henrickson homestead was sold around 1912 to a Mr. Schillander, (or Kjallander) in the U.S.A., who in turn sold it to Mr. Dan Mount in 1920.

The Fred Erickson farm is presently held by his eldest son, John.

The Aaron Erickson farm is presently owned by his youngest son, Harry.

Helping on the home farm till after my marriage, I rented a quarter section for seven years and then moved to my present location in 1942, the S1/2-34-37-3-W5.

Of my own family, the oldest, Bernard is presently living in Ontario. One daughter Lorraine (Mrs. Art Hort is on a farm east of Red Deer and our youngest daughter Phyllis (Mrs. Metro Bereza) after serving a couple of years before her marriage with the Yukon Baptist Mission, is now living in Whitehorse, Yukon.

My oldest sister, Mrs. Lloyd Nelson, lives on a farm in the New Norway district, near Camrose. My younger sister, Lily, taught school around here for a few years, then served with the Sudan Interior Mission in Africa. She is married to Don Kinnett and resides in Edmonton, where my father lived with her until his passing in May 1966.

JOHN E. FALK

John E. Falk homesteaded in 1904, the SW18-37-3-W5. Mr. Falk brought history to the New Hill area by opening the first post office and being the first post master. Mr. Falk walked to Markerville a distance of 14 miles and carried the mail on his back. At that time Markerville Post Office served seven post offices throughout the west country. Mail day was once a week. Today, some sixty odd years later, this old original building Mr. Falk used as his post office stands sturdy in the Lemke's pig corral but houses pigs today.

The Falks came from Sweden. They had two sons Bernard, and John. Bernard had received a good education in Sweden but had to learn the English language. John attended school at the New Hill School which stands in good repair today. Bernard went to Minnesota and became a bank manager.

Arni Bardal purchased the land in 1914 from John E. Falk on an agreement of sale. John is living in Little Rock, Minnesota.

T. GISLASON

The SW1/4-32-36-3-W5 was homesteaded by Thordur Gislason in 1907. Thordur lived there with his stepmother from 1909 until his death in 1916. The land was held by a mortgage company after that until a tax sale, when it was bought in the thirties by Jimmy Jensen. He sold it to Fred Mecklenburg who sold to Chester Mayhew in 1965.

ELMER EDMUND HAUPT

Elmer Haupt bought SW33-36-3-W5 and married Marjorie Caton daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Caton of Eckville. Glen came to this area in 1902 and in 1910 married Cathrine Stewart. Cathrine's brother Alex Stewart was one of the first men west of the Medicine River, coming to the Evarts area in 1901. Mr. Caton farmed until he died suddenly in 1957 at the age of 74 years.

Glen "Doc Caton" had done a lot of veterinary work throughout the New Hill area. Probably he was called on as often as most of our veterinarians today.

Cathrine Caton passed away in 1969.

Alex Stewart stayed on the farm until his death in 1964 at the age of 87 years.

Marjorie and Elmer Haupt have three children, Murray, Irene and Joan.

HJALMSON

Christopher G. Hjalmsen was born in Iceland on March 23, 1885 and as a baby came with his parents to North Dakota, where they lived for a number of years before moving to Saskatchewan.

Here Christopher filed on a homestead in Leslie in 1907, and in 1909 was united in marriage to Jonia Johnson. Jonia was born in Winnipeg on November 6, 1885 and had also lived in North Dakota.

Jonia and Christopher were blessed with a baby girl, Octavia, in 1901. In 1911 they moved to Montana where they operated a ranch and lived for many years. Here Wilhelmina, Harold and Aurora were born.

In 1922 the Hjalmsen family moved to the Gaetz district where Arni, Dorothy and Margaret were born.

In 1933 the Hjalmsen family bought the Hudson Bay Section 8-37-3-5, which was completely covered with brush and which Christopher and his sons Harold and Arni have developed into a fine farm.

Harold married Alice Stringer and lived on NW-5-37-3-5, which was purchased from Henry Bergh in 1960. This quarter was homesteaded by T. Sigurdson of Markerville, purchased by William Sadler and sold to Henry Bergh.



Mr. Gateley with Chris Hjalmsen's mules.

Arni is living on the home quarter. Christopher passed away in 1962 and Jonia in 1967. The Hjalms-sons were splendid neighbours and truly had the pioneer spirit.

HELMER HOLMGREN

Our dad, Helmer Holmgren was born July 2, 1880 at Norrbotten, Sweden.

He left home at the age of 10 years and helped to herd cattle and goats during the summer months. As a young man he did quite a bit of entertaining, singing and playing the Zither. He was a skilled axeman when he worked with timber. He was a miner by trade and worked in the iron mines at Malmberget, Sweden.

Our mother, Selma Westman, was born on August 24, 1878 at Ongarmanland, Sweden. She left home at the age of 9 years and from then on had to make her own living. She did a lot of carding and spinning wool to yarn and knitting. She worked as a waitress at a restaurant for a time. She learned to crochet and did a lot of this. Shortly after she was married she crocheted a lovely bedspread which is still in existence and is a family keepsake.

Our dad and mother were married at Gallivar, Sweden on December 24, 1903. They lived at Malmberget, Sweden, where dad worked in the iron mines. Here three children were born, Austin, born in 1905, Holmfrid and twin Esther born in 1907. Esther died at eight months.

Dad immigrated to Canada in 1908. Coming to the New Hill district, he homesteaded SW13-37-4-W5. In the month of June, 1910 his wife and sons, Austin and Holmfrid came to Canada by an immigrant passenger ship called the Virginian. The ship was crowded and most of the passengers were very ill. Austin, five years of age, was the only member of the Holmgren family that didn't get sick. The room in the ship allotted to them was a very small cubical type room. On arrival at Red Deer, Alberta they were met by Nels Linneberg who brought them out to New Hill by team and wagon. The family stayed at the Linneberg home until their house was completed. The two room log house was built by help from neighbors, and the logs were all hand hewn and tongue and grooved. The windows were hand made. This house is still in good condition and at the present time is being lived in by son Austin and family.

Dad worked on the Alberta Central Railway when it was built between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, and the building of the Grand Trunk Railway from Edmonton west to Edson, and on the Connaught Tunnel in B.C. He also worked building houses in Nordegg and walked the 90 miles to and from Nordegg, sometimes through deep snow going across country as no roads were built here at the time. The wages were \$1.00 a day. He spent many hours of hard work with axe and grub hoe clearing trees and stumps off his land.

Even though there was very little money, there was a lot of community social life. Anytime any one had a pig or other animal to butcher, neighbors got together

to do the job. This also applied to any other job such as building, or digging wells. The neighbors would be right there to help, enjoying the chance to visit and no one ever expected any pay. The closest place of business with banks was at Red Deer. Nearly every one had mortgages. Travelling to Red Deer was all done by team and wagon or walking. Dad also helped to build the New Hill School. This district had many Scandinavian families. At the time the school opened, most of these children could not speak English. This was quite a challenge for the teacher. Evarts was the nearest store for grocery shopping and only saloon.

One time when Ole Olson, Mr. Linneberg and our dad were making a trip to Red Deer with a team of horses and wagon, Greame Budvarson sent a horse hide with them to trade for a jug. On their way back, they came to a very bad mud hole, and got stuck in it. One of the horses who was noted for being balky, laid down in the mud. Try as they could, he just wouldn't get up. It is said, as a last resort they took the jug and poured a generous slug of the contents into the horse, and with this the horse immediately jumped up and again they were on their way. When roads were finally being built, the main road went right past the front of our house. There is still a trail and ruts today through our pasture showing where this road went. Roads were built with a team of horses, a plow, and a slip. Later four horses were used on a frezno to move dirt and build grades. This was a very slow process. Major part of taxes were worked out on road building. A receipt we have shows taxes on this quarter for the year 1926 were \$15.82. This amount is with no deductions.

Among other papers that have been saved during the years, one shows a small grocery advertisement listing lettuce — two heads for .15 cents; sausage three lbs. for .25 cents. We believe this was in the 1930's. A receipt from Johnny Murdock dated December 9, 1939 for subscription to the Red Deer Advocate for \$2.00, also a receipt from Dr. Dodds for \$46.50 for mother's dental plates. This amount includes the extraction of her teeth.

In the year 1919, dad purchased a quarter of land NE14-37-4-W5 from a mortgage company. A son Rolf was born here in 1919. He died at the Red Deer Hospital in 1928. Childrens toys were few and most were home made. One spring when mother was ill, the teacher, Mr. Shook took his pupils with him and walked to our home and planted all the potatoes in our garden. This good deed was done very quickly and well. Mother was an excellent cook and enjoyed having relatives and friends in for dinner. When the New Hill Ladies Club was formed she became an active member. There were many house parties held which were enjoyed by all and dad especially enjoyed the community singing.

In 1932 dad took a second homestead, SE1/4-4-37-4-W5. In 1944 he built a new house on this land and he and mother semi-retired. Dad died suddenly at his home on January 24, 1949. After this mother lived with son Austin and family for 12 years. She then purchased a house of her own and had it moved to

her son Holmfrid's yard. At the present time she is 91 years of age and resides at Rosehaven, Camrose, Alberta.

Written by daughter-in-law Lilly Holmgren as dictated by sons Austin and Holmfrid Holmgren.

KELLMAN

Nels bought the land from Albert Kellman who had one son Hilding, and two daughters, Hanna and Anna. The girls became registered nurses in Edmonton, and Hilding was a barber in Calgary.

JOHN JOSEPH LEAHY

John Joseph Leahy better known as Jack, was born in St. Anicet Que. He spent his boyhood years there. Jack heard the call "Go West Young Man" and set out. He took out a homestead the SW16-37-3 in 1906. He spent winters working at various jobs having worked on Telegraph lines in B.C., at a livery stable in Red Deer, and some time in the Grande Prairie area. He purchased SW20-37-3 from John Flynn who had homesteaded it in 1904. John Flynn was also born in St. Anicet Que.

In 1932 Jack married Mary Hoven, born in 1899 in Hoven, South Dakota. Hoven is a small town named after Mary's grandfather, a Lieutenant in the Civil War. Mary came to Alberta about 1909 with the Matt Hoven family. They settled for a short time on the Ingvar Erickson farm and later moved to the Gaetz district where Adie still owns the family farm.

Friends remember Jack as a good natured Irishman who was always smoking his pipe. Mary always maintained an excellent garden.

Jack passed away in 1949 and Mary with their two daughters, Lyla and Edna, moved to the little house built by the New Hill Mutual Telephone Co. and operated the telephone exchange. Mrs. Leahy resides with Edna, (Mrs. Bud Bradshaw) of Condor. Bradshaws have four children. Lyla (Rangen) lives in Red Deer and is employed by Alberta Government Telephones. Lyla has four children. The family farm is still owned by Lyla and Edna and rented to Alex Wolf.

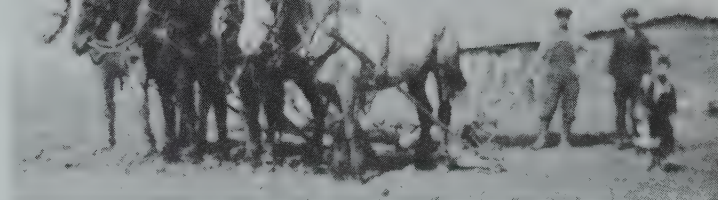
LECERF FAMILY

The Lecerf family-Jules, Louise and their six children, Paul, Madeleine, Marie, Pierre (Pete), Agnes and Jacques (Jim) arrived in Canada in 1902 and lived in Lille, Frank, and Blairmore in Southern Alberta, where Jules was employed as bookkeeper for a French coal company. The family left Frank about two months before the tragic Frank Slide.

They went back to France in 1904, returned to Alberta in 1906 and homesteaded SW24-36-4-W5.

At that time the country was overrun by garter snakes, and while the house was being built, the family lived in a tent; so it was not uncommon to have snakes crawl over the beds at night.

Paul homesteaded in 1910 and the rest of the family moved to Edmonton about the same year. Most returned later, Pete homesteading SE3-37-4-W5 in 1917 and Jim the NE4-37-3-W5 in 1922. Most of the land was cleared by hand, and a good share of it broken with a walking plow.



Jimmy, Pete and Henri Lecerf plowing. Pete's house in background.

Paul married Eva Van Horne in 1912 and had two daughters; later farmed in Saskatchewan where he died in 1932.

Madeleine married Philip Bernard in Edmonton, had two boys and three girls and is now living in Vancouver.

Marie married Edgar Vick, had one boy and four girls, and is now living in Sylvan Lake.

Pete married Blanche De Berg of Vermilion; they had four boys and seven girls, left the farm in 1940 to go into the lumber business and now lives in Rocky Mountain House.

Agnes married George Gassowoski and had one daughter. She is living in Calgary.

Jim married Elizabeth Hoven in 1928. They had five boys and four girls and are still living on the farm. Their family is: Leon married Jean Wright and they have seven sons. They operate the Peak Restaurant at Rocky. Ronald married Connie Shepherd, has three sons and lives at Rocky. Jacqueline married Ed Alp. They have two boys and three girls. Anne married Ross Godkin. Philip married Loretta Linneberg and they have a daughter. Jim Jr. married Faye Simons. They have two children and live at Eckville. Louis, Helen and Beth are at home.

THE LINNEBERGS & SOME OF THEIR NEIGHBORS by Henry Linneberg

My Father, Nels Linneberg, (1872-1916) had an adventurous spirit or I would not be writing this in English. He had traveled and seen all of Sweden before meeting my mother, Freda Holmgren (1877-1952) in an iron mining town called Malmberget (translated Ironore Mountain) in northern Sweden. Freda was keeping house for two of her brothers, John and Helmer Holmgren, also employed in this mine. Father was, in today's terms — a "fire boss" in the mine. Friendship with John and Helmer brought Nels to their home — with the result Freda Holmgren became Mrs. Nels Linneberg. They were married in 1902.

Alice was born in 1904 and Ture (Terry) in 1906.

The move to Canada was a sort of chain action. Emil and Linda Ostergren were close friends of my Father and Mother. Emil Ostergren decided to move to Canada where he had two uncles, the Matson and Erickson families in the Burnt Lake district south of Sylvan Lake. These families had come west in the 1890's. Uncle John Holmgren followed Emil Ostergren in 1905. My Father, lured by the tales of free land and wealth, left for Canada in 1907 and Mother followed a year later arriving in Red Deer together with Uncle Helmer Holmgren in September 1908. Aunt Selma came the following year, 1909.

Mother said of the Atlantic crossing on the 1st Empress of Britain (sunk during 1st World War) — she was seasick all the way as was my sister Alice (4) but Ture (2) was not seasick at all — a typical boy, hungry all the time. The immigrants were not catered to in those days — potatoes on the liner were served with the peel still on. The language barrier was of course a great handicap.

On arrival Father brought mother out by team and wagon from Red Deer to a small homesteaders shack on NW12-37-45 owned by a John Johnson, a hunch back, who was the original owner. (This land is presently owned by W. Shippelt Sr.) Father stayed with Mother only 11 days — then had to go back to a job he had on the railroad construction at Field B.C. to earn a winter's grubstake for his family. Mother said those first months were terrible — fraught with fear of imaginary Indians, fear of strangers, fear her children would wander away and get lost and not being able to speak to anyone who came by. The one bright spot — Linda Ostergren her former neighbor in Sweden, lived with her two children on the quarter east. There was some sort of trail through the woods between and they would visit and console each other. Emil was away as well on the same mission as my Father.

A cabin was built on Father's homestead — SE14-37-4 in which I was born, in 1910 followed by my brother Ellis, in 1913. The house had two rooms now as well as an attic. Father had built on a room with what was left of lumber when he contracted building of New Hill School in 1912. Uncle John had filed on NE2-37-4 as his homestead (1905).

The years were lean and hard. Much time had to be spent away from home to earn money to keep the family. Father by now had become disgruntled with the prospects and had obtained literature on free land in Texas and was trying to persuade Mother to agree to another move but was overtaken by sickness and died in 1916. When Father died from cancer, there were only 5 acres of land broken. He had acquired a few cows, 10 sheep and a sow, 3 horses and a \$650.00 mortgage on the homestead. It seems most of the early settlers took a mortgage to buy a team of horses and a little equipment such as father did — 2 horses, a plow, a disc, a mower and hay rake. Father paid \$376.00 for a team of horses at an auction sale near Evarts and within a year one horse died from blood poisoning.

With Father's death Mother was now faced with a prodigious task, clothing and feeding herself and 4 children, and pay the mortgage off as well.

Uncle John Holmgren stayed with us about 18 months after Father died. He moved a barn from his homestead to our place and built another building as well, in which we stored things not in use and my two brothers and myself used it as a bedroom in the summer months.

Livestock prices were high during the war so Mother by sheer hard work and good management paid off the mortgage. Mother kept the taxes paid on our land and also on Uncle John's homestead as we

did not hear from him from 1918 to 1925 when he suddenly walked in.

During this visit, finding that mother had kept up the taxes on his land, he immediately transferred the title to her saying it would have long since reverted back to the government. On this land there were 15 acres broken and seeded to timothy so this was our hay quarter and Mother together with Alice and Ture would hitch the team to the wagon and go there to make hay leaving Ellis and myself alone all day to watch the sheep. Left by ourselves we often did many things not even remotely connected with the sheep. For instance, Mother kept some chickens, Rhode Island Reds I believe, notorious for going "broody" and not laying many eggs. We had watched mother dunk a broody hen in the water tank to try and break her broodiness so one day we found several "broody" hens and almost drowned them with repeated "dunkings" till they were barely able to stagger away.

Left alone this way and young as we were we did no cooking — when hungry we raided the cupboard sometimes in forbidden areas. There were no refrigerators so all fruit was of the dried type. Mother had about 5 lbs. of dried pears in a bag and Ellis and I "pinched" a few every day or so till suddenly we realized there was only a handful left. When mother went to cook some we had to "confess" who had taken them.

The haying kept Alice and Ture out of school a lot so Alice was 16 when she received her Grade 8 diploma. She was the first pupil to reach that high a standing from our school. Jane ("Jennie") Lightfoot was the first to take Grade 9 and I was the second. Helping work at home kept many from getting very much elementary schooling.

We visited more regardless of nationality or language barriers. I can remember visiting the Joe Hollander (Bohemian) family north of us and Charles Lightfoot (English) west of us NW15-37. John Dietz was on SW15. John Hunford had SE15.

Mr. Lightfoot worked together with Edgar Vick on the Seebe dam at Kananaskis and Mr. Vick persuaded Charley to homestead here. Edgar was a life long friend of Morley Beaver (Chief Walking Eagle) the Indian who forecast our winter weather pattern so well till his recent death.

G. Brandson filed on NE10-37 about 1916. Mrs. Brandson was a generous person and an artist with knitting needles. As a boy, I was visiting there once. I had mittens with holes in them. When I went home in the evening, she presented me with a pair of mittens — knit that afternoon.

To the southwest Armor Orth and his sister lived on NE3-37. Pierre Lecerf came in 1917 and later bought the Orth homestead as well as Larry Adams homestead SW2-37.

Niel Wilkinson had the NW35-36. He joined the army and died in France in 1st World War.

O.E. (Elzy) Cave came from North Dakota in 1909 to the NW36-36-4. His father and brother Art had come west a year or two previous and were located further south. Elzy was our entertainer. He had a

fine strong tenor voice and would accompany himself on the banjo or guitar to songs such as "South in Dixie" and the "Preacher and the Bear". As a young man he had been in a Minstrel Troupe in Iowa. Whenever the Caves came to visit us, Elzy always brought his guitar and his songs were highlights of early years. Uncle John Holmgren played the violin (I have this violin today) so together with Mr. Cave they provided music for the "house dances" of that day. Elzy's musical talent was transmitted to his sons and grandchildren most of them still in the entertainment field. Two sons, Maurice and Eli, Marino Brandson and myself had an orchestra for many years. Eli and Lillian (his wife) still play for local dances and 4 of their sons (The Cave Brothers) are a well known orchestra today.

Uncle John had a neighbor across the road, George Chatwood and his family — all girls (NW1/4-1-37). Local people thought George was "queer" because he loved flowers and had a very lovely flower garden. Of course, there was no market for flowers. The Chatwoods later loaded all their belongings in a wagon and drove down into Washington, U.S.A. where George set up as a florist and made a success of it.

East of Chatwoods was a Mr. Briggs NE1/4-1-37 but I don't remember him ever living on it.

Also in that area was Mr. Wells and his son, Ray who came in 1922. Ray was a veteran of 1st World War (NE36-36).

Fritz Von Hollen filed on SE24-37 and a Per Hanson on NE13-37. Both were later abandoned and reverted back to the government.

The Elof Holmgren (no relation to us) family lived on NE13-37-4. They moved to the Burnt Lake district.

Englebert Force was on SE12-37-4 and Harry Nelson on SW12-37-4. The present owners are Frank & John Shippelt.

In the fall of 1921 a fire starting somewhere west of here swept the country into the Dickson area before being stopped. Much winter feed including ours, was lost and ground fires burned for months afterward long into the winter.

An elderly couple, Mr. Christianson and his wife were first owners of NW1/4-13-37-4 (1909). Mr. Christianson died from a heart attack in 1911 and his son Steve and family moved into the buildings. They had six boys and all lived in the 12' x 14' homestead shack. The bunk beds were spaced at 2 foot intervals up the wall in one corner of the room. In 1916, they moved back to North Dakota.

The Fred Nelson homestead (NW17-37-3) was occupied for many years by Percy Ransom and his wife, Jane.

Ture and Family lived on the Linneberg homestead till April, 1969, operating a general store and gas station for a number of years. Presently they live in Calgary. Alice (Mrs. Allen Ross) lives in Innisfail.

Alice and Allan (Pat) Ross ranched on the old Cave holdings south of here till their retirement.

Ellis and Thelma are still on the John Holmgren homestead.

Grace and I (Henry) live on the old Christianson homestead.

THE MAYHEWS

Fred Haupt purchased the Sam Montieth quarter in 1948. At that time there were only 60 acres broken on the east side of it. This quarter was a berry-pickers paradise-as people came from miles around to partake of the abundant wild fruit. Thor Bjornson bought the land from Fred Haupt in 1957. Thor was born in Iceland in 1897. He received his education in the country of birth, coming to Winnipeg in 1927. Two years later he decided to go to Alberta. Thor is a bachelor and a welder by trade.

Soon after purchasing this land Thor, known as "Louky" gave this quarter to his sister Mrs. Jack Mayhew. Jack and Margaret Mayhew sold their farm at Raven to Mathew Soltis. With the help of Thor they built on this quarter. NE32-36-3-W5.

Jack Mayhew was born March 13, 1894 at Parkersburg, West Virginia. Jack, his sister Ruby, his mother, Mrs. Turner and her husband travelled the distance from New Mexico to Medicine Hat by covered wagon. Jack's wife, formerly Margaret Bjornsdotter, was born in Iceland June 15, 1899. Jack and Margaret were married July 15, 1922. Children born to Jack and Margaret were:

Chester purchased the home place in 1960. He married Patricia Kemp of Markerville, and they have three children, Kenneth, Connie and Robert. Edward, passed away at 34 years of age. Margaret (Shaurette) of Caroline; William, of Calgary; Mildred, (Mrs. Bernard Williams) of Caroline; and James, who lives in Calgary.

THE MONTIETHS

Samuel Montieth was the original homesteader of the quarter now owned by Chester Mayhew. Sam was born June 10, 1860 in Ontario. While in Ontario he married Amelia Barkley who was born in Ontario Feb. 2, 1869. They were blessed with seven children all born in Ontario: Charlie, 1886, Margaret, 1888, Maude 1890, Karnie, 1893, Henry, 1900, Jack, 1902, Jim, 1904.

Sam and Amelia left Ontario with this young family and arrived in Red Deer in 1906. They took out their homestead in New Hill. A daughter, Annie was born in Red Deer in 1907. Mrs. Montieth was called upon constantly to act as a mid-wife. Their son Henry brought much recognition as he was a noted rodeo rider. Maude became a hairdresser and operated a salon for thirty years. Sam and Amelia celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1935. Sam died in 1938. His wife rented their land to Fred Haupt who later purchased the land. She resided until her passing in 1950, with her daughter Annie on their farm in the Gaetz District.

SW6-37-3-W5 was homesteaded by Charlie Montieth before 1910 and left in 1915. His brother Henry lived on the quarter several years and left in 1928. He drove in a covered wagon with his wife and child to High Prairie and homesteaded there. Elwin Don-



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Monteith.

nelly then bought this quarter. Charlie died in March 1953. Maude lives in Seattle. Margaret lives in Winnipeg. Karnie is a retired logger and lives in High Prairie. Jim farms at Bluffton. Jack is a carpenter in Rimbey. Henry now farms at High Prairie. Annie resides with her husband, Harvey Carlyle on their farm in the Gaetz District.

JOHN NELSON

John Nelson lived directly across from Jack Leahys. John was a bachelor. He had come to this district with a threshing outfit and decided he would like to make it his home so he purchased the C.P.R. quarter SE19-37-3-W5. John is now deceased.

ANDREW OLSON

Andrew Olson a bachelor of Swedish descent, homesteaded the SE7-37-3-W5. He erected his buildings on the far west side of this quarter. He later brought out Otto Johnson who homesteaded the quarter directly west of his (SW7-37-3-W5). Otto lived with Andrew or "Olie" as everyone called him. Olie and Otto built a barn directly on the line fence between these two quarters. Otto joined him in homesteading and this is the reason for the poor location of the buildings today.

Olie got some grass seed and after it was seeded white daisies grew in this grass land mixture. No one knew what they were and they were not considered harmful so got the name of "Olie's poppies" or daisies. They were rather lovely to look at but were hard to control and in a few years all the close neighbors had these pests, now known as the "Mayweed". This weed has thrived well and is out of control for most farmers but little did Olie know how the grass seed would turn out.

Earl Donnelly who farmed directly south of Olie, recalls a close call Olie had while he was repairing his binder. He had it jacked up and was under it trying to take off some part. Apparently he loosened the wrong bolt and the binder fell on him, pinning him there. His head was pinned the worst, but with the wrench he was using he maneuvered and began digging a hole so his head would not be pinned so tightly. He lived alone at that time and his only recourse was to shout for help. Erich Bergstrom was plowing with horses in a field not too far away. He stopped to rest his horses and heard Olie's cries for help. He hurried over to see what was the matter and found Olie. Erich was a big husky man but he had a difficult time to get blocks and pry the binder off Olie. He managed to get him out none the worse for his horrifying experience.

Olie cleared most of the land but as he was getting older decided to sell the farm and move to Sylvan Lake. He sold to Wm. Lowry in 1944.

The Lowry's farmed until 1964 at which time they sold the land to Dave Wolf Jr. from Drumheller. Today the land is farmed by Alex Wolf and the buildings are occupied by Enos and Irene Rasmussen and their children Terry, Brenda, Dorothy, Charles and Gail.

EMIL OSTERGREN by David Ostergren

My Grandfather, Emil Ostergren, came from Malbergit, Sweden to homestead in the New Hill area in 1906. Grandmother Linda Ostergren with their family of two, my father Ernest and my Aunt Ellen came a few months later.

My father celebrated his fifth birthday on the ship.

The cook made a birthday cake and my father was guest of honor at the Captain's table. They arrived in Red Deer and were met by Grandfather and Mr. & Mrs. Matheus Mathson of Burnt Lake, where they stayed until my Grandfather had built a sod shack in which they spent the first winter. My father and my Aunt Ellen thought it great fun to live in such a nice warm house in the ground.

The following year Grandfather built a three roomed house with upstairs bedrooms and also a log barn. The logs were cut and hauled with teams of horses or oxen, by those fortunate enough to have these animals to haul with. That same house and barn with a few improvements stands today on the old homestead NE12-37-4-W5. My Grandfather passed away in 1910 and my Grandmother passed away in 1938.

To help them over their hard and tiresome jobs they made do with homemade snuff, they bought leaf tobacco and dried it in the oven. When it was dry they ground or pounded it as fine as possible then put it through a sieve to get the coarse sticks out. They then would add a little baking soda and salt moistened with coffee or once in awhile, with brandy or moonshine if that was handier, which it usually was.



Mr. Ostergren in wheat field.

For recreation they took turns at having parties where they played cards, also sang songs or played some instruments, violin, mouth organ, guitar. My Grandfather played a mouth organ and Grandmother had a guitar with which she also entertained.

My Grandmother also had nurse's training that came in very handy for these early settlers. A Minister who traveled to the settlements would make the rounds about once a month to hold Services. It usually took two days with team and wagon, longer by ox cart.

My father Ernest Ostergren and my mother Rose Knight were married at Innisfail in 1928. Four children were born to them.

Robert, the eldest, is married and has three children. They make their home at Victoria, B.C. and Robert is a plasterer by trade.

Emil is married and has two sons, and they make their home in Edmonton, Alberta, where Emil is a truck driver with twelve years safe driving record with Imperial Oil.

And I, David live on the old homestead keeping busy with a few cows, sheep, pigs, horses and also cats and dogs.

Ellen (Wendt) has a baby daughter, they make their home in Red Deer. Ellen is a Supervisor at Alberta School Hospital.

My father was one of the best big game hunters. He was also a very good farmer. He was very active in community affairs and was Trustee for the New Hill School for many years. He was elected councilor for the M.D. of Raven and when the municipality went into an Improvement District, he was then elected to the Advisory Board as Member-at-Large and also was Secretary for the Advisory Members, which office he held until his death in October, 1960.

HARRY PRATT

Harry Pratt was born at 9 Highberry Terrace, Yorkshire, England May 4, 1871.

His wife Mary Martha Bellwood, was born at 57 Monkbridge Road, Yorkshire, England, December 8, 1871. They were married on February 14, 1896.

On March 1907, he left Leeds, England and worked his way across on a cattle boat arriving in Halifax in April and continued his journey west to Innisfail. He worked and saved enough money to send for his wife and three daughters, Lizzie then nine years, Ruth seven years and Mabel three years of age. They arrived in Canada in September and found a September snowstorm.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pratt on their homestead — 1915.

The following year a daughter Margaret (Madge) was born, and in January 1909 the eldest daughter Lizzie was stricken with spinal meningitis and died.

The Pratts then decided to try farming around Innisfail. They took a homestead in New Hill in 1912. The quarter was NE35-36-4-W5. As a means of

clearing the land and also for a few odd dollars for grocery money, Harry cut fire wood and tamarack posts. For three consecutive years he put up sixteen cords of wood each winter for the Markerville Creamery. He also cut, split and piled the wood in sixteen inch lengths for the schools. He had contracts to put the wood up at the New Hill school for two years, Craig two years and one year at the Big Bend School. Ten cords was the amount of wood required for a school for a school term. The price paid was four dollars a cord for this wood cut, split and piled in the school yard. On occasions when someone in town required wood a sleigh box full would net one about \$2.50 per load. A great deal of work was required for the few odd dollars that were often one's very existence.

In August 1920, Harry suffered a sunstroke. Pneumonia followed and in these early times with no telephones or ready communication, he died. He was buried in the Innisfail Cemetery where daughter Lizzie had been buried previously. After the farm was sold Mrs. Pratt continued to live in the New Hill district with her daughters Ruth (Mrs. Milton Roffey), Mabel (Mrs. Earl Donnelly) and Madge (Mrs. Harvey Berry). She lived to the age of 94 years and passed away January 22, 1965. She was laid to rest beside her husband Harry and daughter Lizzie.

WILLIAM SADLER

"Bill" Sadler homesteaded the SW5-37-3-W5 early in 1905. He came from Crewe, England. Bill worked on the C.P.R. station in Red Deer where he met his wife, then Margaret Marshall, also from England.

Bill was a carpenter while his future wife was employed as cook at the Old Indian School west of Red Deer. After their marriage they resided at New Hill. They were very thrifty and prospered well. Bill bought the NW5-37-3-W5 from Tom Sigurdson.

Mr. and Mrs. Sadler were one of the first couples to have a community celebration on their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Jeppe Hindbo (nearest neighbor to the Sadlers) passed the word around to the neighbors that it was time for this celebration and the neighbors all turned up at the Sadlers much to their surprise, and helped them celebrate. Since that time it has been the custom that the Ladies Club has held a community celebration for every couple observing their 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The Sadler's had the misfortune of losing their barn, harness and corrals from fire believed to have been caused by lightning. I remember Bill milking the cows by giving them chop and just sitting down with his stool and milking them out in the pasture, as he had no barns. Bill built the barn that now stands in use by Elmer Haupt. Bill cleaned up the debris from the fire and built the new barn in the exact location the old barn had been. When questioned as to why he had put it in the very same location he answered, "I shan't lose it from lightning again as lightning never strikes in the same place twice."

After working hard many years they reached the time of retirement, sold their land and had a farm

auction on October 25, 1946. The Sadlers went to Ontario and later went back to England, where they both died not too long after.

ALEX SHOOK

Mr. Shook was the second teacher to teach at the New Hill School. In 1914 he joined the staff of the Red Deer School and then joined the Armed Forces. He was decorated with the French Legion of Honor and became Flight Commander. The reason for his receiving this honor was because he was attacked by twenty German planes and he put them to flight and shot down two. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal which was presented by King George V and was also awarded the French Croix-de-Guerre. He became major and was appointed secretary to the airboard in Ottawa in 1919.

NELS SOLLAND by Mrs. Nels Solland

I, Koustance Solland, was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1897 and came to America with parents, sisters and brothers, on the Cunard Steamline Laurentic in 1911.

My husband, Nels, was born in Skien, Norway. He came to Liberty, Sask. in 1915. We were married at Altario, Alberta and we have three children, Carl, Alice and William.

Nels bought this land in 1918. We found life quite different from living at Patricia and Brooks where my husband was a dragline operator. We enjoyed the friendliness of the neighbors, got to meet the problems of farming, to meet the disappointment when a lovely crop and garden was destroyed or damaged by hail or by frost.

The highlight of the week was when Bill Stringer brought the mail from Markerville, on a road that was next to impassable.

Worship was held at the school, conducted by missionaries or ministers from a distance. Once the minister didn't make it. He had a runaway with his team and the pole had been broken. A farmer came along and there was the minister, red in the face. His only comment was "It was that Lousy pole."

We had the experience of having a beautiful elk come to the water place, not far from the buildings. He drank with the horses. When it froze over, he disappeared.

In the dirty thirties, the pioneer spirit showed up in everyone. We had our flour made at the Eckville Flour Mill. With it we got our cream of wheat, a bit dark but good. To the bran we mixed a little molasses, almost burned it in the oven for coffee. Everyone made their own bread and some baked for the bachelors. Washing was mostly done on the wash board. But everyone was in the same boat. With very few conveniences, people still found time to visit and to make all the articles for bazaars and fish ponds.

Flour sacks were bleached and made into clothing, some were dyed.

With gardens and "sow belly" everyone had plenty to eat. Wild fruit was plentiful as not much land had been broken. Grade A market pigs brought \$11.90 for 3. The children enjoyed the farm and loved the animals, giving names to all. At first the two eldest didn't like the milk — they preferred "Milkman

milk." They were excited over a pure white magpie that nested for three years across the road on the Hjalmsen place. The bird raised ordinary little magpies. A pair of mourning doves returned for seven consecutive years, and nested in the same saskatoon bush.

WILLIAM H. STRINGER

William Hebrew Stringer was born in Oxford, England September 15, 1886 and came to Canada by boat in 1909. In 1911 he arrived in the New Hill district where the original homestead is still operated by his sons Edwin and Gordon. On June 24, 1916 he married Eva A. MacIntyre who had been born at Wallacetown, Ontario in 1887. He met Eva when she taught the New Hill School. Bill was the second postmaster and mail hauler. He came to Markerville for the mail, a distance of fourteen miles as the crow flies.

Within two years of taking up the homestead site, Bill became associated with L.I.D. work when he was elected to the council in the Sylvan Lake district. Five years later, 1918, the L.I.D. became the Municipal District of Golden West. Bill became a member of the council. He served as reeve of the Golden West M.D. for 10 years and in 1936 he became secretary treasurer, a position he held for 20 years.

Due to Bill's work, Mr. and Mrs. Stringer and son Harold took up residence in Sylvan Lake. Their children Alice, Gordon and Edwin operated the farm and extended their operations. Alice, (Mrs. Harold Hjalmsen) died in July 1965. Their retirement years were spent in Red Deer and on their farm at New Hill. Bill passed away March 1, 1968.

GUDBJORN SVEINBJORNSON

Mr. and Mrs. Gudbjorn Sveinbjornson were both born in Iceland. Gudbjorn was born in 1853 and died in 1939. Mrs. Sveinbjornson was born in 1866 and died in 1934. They came first to Argyle, Manitoba in 1901 and in 1904 came to Innisfail. August was born at Argyle in 1902. They also had a foster daughter Halldora Bjornson who later adopted the Sveinbjornson name. Mrs. Sveinbjornson's brother Gudmundur Gudmundson, better known as "Billy Gudmundson" came with them.

On arriving in Innisfail they were quarantined in the old Emigrant House for measles for three weeks. Quarantines were much stricter in those times. When they were free to go Gudbjorn and his brother-in-law went to Knee Hill Valley to look for homesteads. They did not find any to their liking so they went west to their relations Mr. and Mrs. Sam Benedictson in the Heckla district. Here they rented a small house from Mr. Vigfus Sigurdson, brother of O. Sigurdson. Gudmundur homesteaded the SW28-36-3-W5 and Gudbjorn homesteaded the SE32-36-3-W5. First they built a house and barn on Gudmundur's place and moved there. In 1905 Dagmar was born, at the Sigurdson house. They moved west in 1906. Soon after that they built a house and barn on Gudbjorn's quarter. They bought a team of horses, some cows and sheep.

When at the Sigurdson place a very bad fire broke out. It started by accident on the SW17-37-2-W5. It was one of the worst fires the pioneers ever had to fight. It covered a wide area and went all the way to the Red Deer River. Sveinbjornson's first team of horses became so frightened they jumped into the river, which was in high flood at the time and the horses were never seen again. Every able bodied man turned out to help the settlers in the path of the fire. There were no telephones but the settlers knew when a fire was out of control.

The Gudmundson place became a stopping place for people living out Stauffer and Caroline way and the same hospitality was evident after moving to Gudbjorn's place. It was also common for bands of Indians to camp close by. They bought their bread from Mrs. Sveinbjornson who was an excellent bread baker.

Halldora (Dora) attended school at Heckla and Pine Lake. About 1910, Sveinbjornsons adopted another of the Bjornson sisters from Iceland by the name of Margaret (Maggie). She attended school at New Hill along with August and Dagmar. Dora married Bjorn Thorlakson. Maggie married Jack Mayhew. August married Villa Hjalmsen. Dagmar married Harry Pollock.

While in Iceland, Mrs. Sveinbjornson graduated as mid-wife with high honors. She practiced that profession for many years before coming to Canada. She helped many people after coming to Canada. Most people could not afford a cent of payment and she always said she was happy that she was able to help them and wished them good luck. Whenever she expected difficulty she had the husband call a doctor but they were seldom needed. It made no difference the road or weather conditions, day or night, she would be ready in five minutes. A bachelor came for her in a howling blizzard after midnight. He felt he should rest his horses but Mrs. Sveinbjornson told him to warm himself and she would be ready in five minutes and on their way. He started off at a slow pace so she told him to hand her the reins. He then speeded the team up over the ten miles they had to go. He protested and she told him to shut up and get there. Within half an hour of arriving, the baby was born and everything was okay. The bachelor said afterwards "I didn't know she was in all that hurry to have a baby." Mrs. Sveinbjornson had the satisfaction of never losing a mother or baby.

JOHN THORRALDSON — ELIGH MONTEITH

This quarter was homesteaded by John Thorraldson. He bought the Mickelson quarter also, south of land now owned by Alex Wolfe. He mortgaged this homestead to Duncan in Edmonton for seven hundred dollars.

Eligh Monteith bought it from the mortgage company. Eligh died in 1938. He died on his way home from town with team and sleigh. The team came home and Mr. Monteith was found by a neighbor, Eric Matson.

John Steel then bought the land. John remembers coming to Canada with his parents, the trip out from

Innisfail and arriving in the wee hours of the morning. Due to the late hour and darkness his father couldn't find the barn to put the rented team in, so tied them in the chicken house until morning. It seemed like quite a wilderness to this seven year old boy (see Steel).

D. WOLF FAMILY by Alex Wolf

David Wolf was born in Russia near the Black Sea in 1896. In 1918, he was married to Katherine Kleopher who was born in the same village in 1898. After farming in Russia until 1929, two years of which were spent on a Communist Collective farm, he managed to escape Communist suppression, and go to Germany. Seeking refugee status in Germany until May of 1930, he was finally able to immigrate to Canada to an uncle of Mrs. Wolf's in Beiseker, Alberta. He moved to a farm on the cut banks of the Red Deer river near the mining town of Rosedale.

Mr. Wolf was never too happy living there, so in 1947, he purchased the J. Hindbo farm in the New Hill district. He and his wife and youngest son, Alex, moved to this farm March of 1948. Strange as it may seem, Mr. J. Hindbo came from the same district in Rosedale as Mr. Wolf, but Mr. Hindbo lived on the south side of the river and Mr. Wolf on the north side. They were only about three miles apart, the way the crow flies, but never got to know one another in the four or five years that they were neighbours there.

Church was regularly attended at the Lutheran Church at Craig. Mrs. Wolf passed away after a lengthy illness and was buried in the cemetery at the church.

Mr. Wolf was a stamp collector. At one time he had more than twenty pen-pals all over the world with whom he corresponded and traded stamps. In 1966, he left the farm and retired to Red Deer but he still enjoys lending a helping hand on the farm for haying or harvest.

The family consists of three sons. Adam farms in the Morrin district, Waldemar is in the Munson district and operates the old home farm at Rosedale. Alex married Alvina Jans of Red Deer and has two children, Russel and Rhonda. Alex also operates the Bill Lowry farm.



Splitting wood.

NORTH RAVEN

NORTH RAVEN by Mrs. Edwin MacDonald

The following is the History of North Raven district and some of the land on which people lived. I want to acknowledge the help I received from relatives of the pioneers as well as the help of my husband, Edwin (Ted) MacDonald, now deceased. His help in compiling these statistics was incomparable.

Samuel Miles came from Ashby, North Dakota in 1903 and homesteaded NW 28-36-4 W5th. In 1904, Mrs. Miles and son Arthur came with her father, Frank Helmer. Mr. & Mrs. Miles and Arthur lived here until 1923 when they moved to California. This quarter was sold to Sam Neal. Frank Helmer homesteaded the NE 16 which was later bought by Frank Heare.

Mr. & Mrs. Heare lived here for many years. Their family consisted of Lola, Mrs. Cecil Winters, Stauffer; Kathleen, Mrs. Dan Helm, Calgary; Phillip, now deceased. Mrs. Frank Heare died in 1921 and Frank later moved to California where he remarried. Frank is now deceased, and the farm is owned by Phillip's widow Isabel and her son Dean Doll. Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Heare also had a daughter Frances, Mrs. Brian Brown, and son Ryan.

Edward Baylor homesteaded SW 16 but he and his wife and family soon returned to the U.S.A. William Channel was the next owner of this land and then it was purchased by Frank Heare.

Charles Fenkel homesteaded SE 16. There was a lovely grove of pine trees on it called "Fenkel's Grove" that made an ideal picnic ground and was enjoyed by the settlers from a wide area for the annual picnic and sports days.

Andrew J. Bowers came from Kansas City in 1904 to homestead NW 22. Mr. & Mrs. Bowers and family, consisting of Arthur, Stanley, Fay and Imogene lived here until 1927 when they moved to California where they still live. Andrew is now deceased.

Sid Sparrow was a remittance man so lack of money was no problem. He homesteaded SW 22 in 1903. He went to Innisfail and bought a shotgun and rifle. Home again, he took the shot gun out after ducks but found none. Below him he saw a large pike and decided to try for it. He stuck the gun barrel into the water and fired. He was left with only the stock. The gun had exploded. Shortly afterward he showed a visitor his rifle. When the man suggested the rifle had not been used, Sid picked it up and fired at a handy grindstone which promptly met the shotgun's fate.

Edgar M. Jensen purchased this land from Sid Sparrow in 1918 and he and Mrs. Jensen lived there until 1960 when they retired to Penticton, B.C. Edgar homesteaded NE 33 and came to North Raven as a young man.

Albert Vanner resides here having bought the land in 1961.

Mr. & Mrs. Louis E. Adams came from Seers, Michigan with 5 of their 8 children. They homesteaded SE 33-36-4 W5th. Two of their sons, Fred and Laurie, now deceased, soon went back to the U.S.A. Nellie (Mrs. Harry Anderson) resides in California and Mary (Mrs. Charles Waring) went to Coos Bay, Oregon. She is now deceased. Estelle (Mrs. George Sadler) resides in California. Mr. & Mrs. Adams went back to Michigan in 1924. Fred married Mabel Bechtel homesteading NW 33. They moved to Oregon where he became County Commissioner. Mrs. Adams still lives there. Edgar M. Jensen bought the land from Fred Adams and it is now owned by Jacob Gundersen.

Treider (Ted) Jensen homesteaded SW 33 in 1910 and sold it to his brother J. Cyrus Jensen and it is now owned by James H. Savage.

Colin Cline came with the Berry's and homesteaded SW 34 in 1903. He was a bachelor and soon went back to the U.S.A. Arch Neal now owns this land. The remainder of this section is still open crown and grazing lease.



Jensen family — Cyrus, Ted, Jack, Edgar, Agnus.

Segal Record homesteaded NE 20 in 1904. The story is told of Mrs. Record, who was hungry for fresh meat. One day when she was all alone, a flock of prairie chicken came in by the wood pile. Thinking it a good chance, she loaded the shot gun, which she had never used before, and fired. She killed the chickens alright but the gun kicked and knocked out her front teeth.

Mrs. Anna Miles came from North Dakota with her folks, the Helmers and bought from Record in 1908. She sold it to Mrs. Julia Curran who lived here with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. William Bechtel. They moved to Innisfail where Mrs. Bechtel died. Bill Bechtel, his mother, his three sons, Ford, Roy and Clarence moved to Washington, U.S.A.

Donald McIntyre, his wife and son William came from Cappon, Alberta in 1927 and bought the land.



Grandpa Jensen and Edgar (on seat), Jack at back.

After the death of Mr. McIntyre it was sold to Edgar Jensen. Alver Jensen now owns it.

In 1910 the North Raven school was built on N.E. corner of this section and it is now used as a community Centre.

Frank Hayworth homesteaded NE 28. Mr. Thomas Neal Jr. bought this quarter and with his wife and family lived there for many years. Their family consists of Hazel, (Mrs. Wm. Holobeff,) Herronton; Barbara, (Mrs. E. Hirtle) and Ken of Raven. Tom died in 1964. Barbara has 2 children, Susan and Darylle, and Ken has 2 children, Audrey and Allan.

Frank Troyer homesteaded NE 18 and went to the U.S.A.

Robert Scott bought the above land and lived there until he and Mrs. Scott went to Edmonton in 1934.

Mr. & Mrs. William Berry lived there until 1944 when they moved to Rocky Mountain House. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mottl the present owners, have three children — Henry Jr., Randy and Debbie. Previously the Mottl family lived in the hamlet of Spruce View while Henry was busy clearing land for many farmers in the area.

Harvey Troyer homesteaded SE 18 in 1907. Mrs. Troyer (nee Essie McMullen) and their two children Thelma and Miles, left here in 1915 and went to Washington. Dick Brown purchased this land and lived there with his sons Ken and Dester, and two daughters. Minor Orcutt bought in 1929 and he and Mrs. Orcutt and daughter Marjorie lived here until 1935 when they went to Washington. Their son Roy farmed it next and he and his wife Mary sold it to Julius Kallis. He was pitcher for the Raven ball team. The Roy Orcutts also moved to U.S. Julius bought SW 18 from James Knight. In 1948, Charles Hall bought this half section. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have 3 children, Lois (Mrs. Hill) of Bermuda, Rita at home and Donald of Raven.



Picnic at Fenkel's Grove — O. Olesen and Heinsen families.

L.L. Edgar homesteaded SW 18, sold to Mrs. Blanche Burgess who sold it to James Knight. He and his wife lived here until a fire in 1940 burned their home and they moved to Caroline. No one has ever lived on NW 18. It is owned by Neil McKnight.

David O. McMullen homesteaded SW 19 in 1910. He and his family lived here until 1915 when they went to the U.S. Glen Gardner bought it in 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner and family, consisting of Garnett, Louis, Cecil, Glenora, Ruth, Vaye, Helen, James, Glen Jr., Fern and Joyce lived here until 1955 when Mr. and Mrs. Gardner retired to Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Gardner homesteaded NW 19 and sold both quarters to Joe Skarra of Calgary. Mr. and Mrs. Skarra lived here until 1967 when they sold to Elmer Spreeman of Olds, Alberta.

Allan Barber homesteaded SE 19 and lived there a short while before moving to Idaho. He sold to William Montgomery who with his wife Iris still live here. William Jr., lives on S.W. 20 and daughters Doreen and Maureen live in Calgary.

J.H. Millar homesteaded NW 19 but in 1917 moved to U.S. They were good community workers.

Mr. & Mrs. William Talentyre lived here a short while then moved to Sylvan Lake. Their family include Newton, Edmonton; Ruth, Mrs. R. Cave, Red Deer; Grace, Mrs. Henry Linneberg, New Hill; Dorothy, Mrs. Jerry Mottl, Evergreen. Olive Evanson purchased this land in 1939 and lived here until 1955 when she went to Calgary. She sold to Alver Jensen. It is now owned by Chas. Hall.

Arthur O. Cole homesteaded SE 30 in 1910. They and their daughter Winnifred lived here until 1931 when Mrs. Cole passed away. Arthur has passed away and Winnifred lives in Calgary. Mr. & Mrs. P. Miller and daughters lived there until 1954 when they moved to Sylvan Lake. W. Clarke bought it and sold to Joe Skarra who sold to Elmer Spreeman and his son farms it now.

George Troyer homesteaded NE 30. It was then owned by Mrs. A.O. Cole who sold to T.A. (Ted) Jensen, now farmed by his son, Norman.

James Thompson homesteaded NW 30 and it is now owned by Howard Jensen. SW 1/4 was never proven up on but was filed on by Mr. William Belliar and is rented or leased from the Government by Frank Coleman.

H.B. Round bought the north 1/2 21 and John W. Jensen bought NE21 in 1928 and it is now owned by his nephew, Alver. Cyrus Jensen bought NW 21 in 1928 and it is also owned by Alver Jensen. Mr. and Mrs. J. Cyrus Jensen and their family include Maudie, (Mrs. E. MacDonald), Innisfail; Alver, Raven; Wilfred, Lethbridge; Lois, deceased. They came from Griffin, Sask. to SW 33. They lived on the N. W. 21 until 1946 when they and their daughters went to Red Deer. They returned to Raven to NE 20 and lived there until the death of Mr. & Mrs. Jensen in 1967. Cyrus gave this land to his son, Wilfred who sold it to his brother. Alver, Mary and their girls, Carolynne and Marydell, live on the NW 21.

Edgar M. Jensen bought the S 1/2 21 which he farmed until he retired and sold it to Albert Vanner in 1961.

Cyrus Clay homesteaded NW 6-37-4 W5 in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Clay and six of their nine children came from Oregon and lived here until their death many years later. Their family includes Rose, May and Harry who remained in Oregon. Those who came with them were Edward of Caroline; Olen, deceased; twins, Loren of Stauffer and Lura (Mrs. Thomas McKenzie (deceased), twins Ina (Mrs. Fred Thompson), Penhold and Nina (Mrs. Laverne Ceasor), Calgary. Loren Clay bought the NW 31-36-4 W5th, in 1931. In the 1930's Loren cut posts and ties and hauled them to Leslieville. The ties were pine, hand hewn and he got \$1.00 each for them. For 6 pigs he got \$32.00 after he hauled them to Condor with a team and wagon.



A. Neal farmstead.

Arthur Miles bought SW 5-37-4 W5th in 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Miles and daughter Dorothy, lived here until 1926 when they went to Washington. Mr. Miles sold this land to Mr. and Mrs. Jack McNally who lived there until they retired to Red Deer. It is now owned by their son Stewart McNally.

Chas. Hale homesteaded the NW 32 in 1905. George Strachan bought this land, sold to Olen Clay and Cyril Chek now owns it. George Strachan homesteaded the NE 32 in 1905, later selling to Arthur Miles. George was a bachelor and had land further north where he lived. This land too is now owned by Stewart McNally.

Cyrus Jensen homesteaded SE 32 in 1930 and in 1958 he sold it to Stewart McNally. Alver Jensen homesteaded SW 32 in 1930 and also sold to Stewart. Thomas Neal, Sr. bought all of sec. 27 in 1916. He, his wife and family, William, Thomas, Arch, Sam, Ruth (Mrs. Art Childs), Rocky Mountain House, and Richard, moved here from Montana the following year. This land is still owned by members of the family.

Tom Neal arrived from Montana just before a municipal election. On election day he went to see if



Hale Lake stampede.

he were eligible to vote. In discussion, Cyrus Clay said to Cecil Savage, DRO, "Tom can't vote, he isn't even civilized, (naturalized)."

Three Englishmen took homesteads up in the North Raven area. One was Pellent, a remittance man, who drove a team of Indian ponies. He was a very tall man. Tom Berry saw a team and wagon one day, so called to Mrs. Berry, "Put the kettle on, there's a man and two boys coming." As the wagon came closer they could see it was only Mr. Pellent sitting with his feet up on the box. His legs were so long, his knees so high, that it looked like three people.

William Savage sold SW 29 to Harvey Housman, Innisfail. Tom and Jeanette Housman and two children live there. Edward Clay bought NW 29 and sold to Mr. & Mrs. James Savage. They have three children, Dale, R.R.1, Innisfail; Jeanette (Mrs. Roger Dezall), Swan Hills; Reg, McBride B.C.

George and Archie Shaw owned N 1/2 17. In 1918 it was bought by John Montgomery who came with his mother, Mrs. Margaret Montgomery, his brother William, and his sisters, Elizabeth (Mrs. D. Knight), and Annie (Mrs. H. Dolphin). They came from Montana. The land is now owned by Eric Knight, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Knight.

H. Northcott owned SE 20 and it is now owned by Eric Knight. The SW 20 was bought by William Montgomery from Wm. Bechtel and is now owned by Wm. Montgomery Jr.

Frank Ross homesteaded SW 28 in 1904. Cecil O. Savage bought this land in 1918. John Armeý homesteaded SE 28 in 1907 and sold to A.J. Bowers. Mr. & Mrs. Armeý and their children, Lyman and Irene, went to California.

Mr. & Mrs. George Jacobs homesteaded SW 17 in 1912, sold to John Mayhew. S.E. 17 was owned by Cliff Burgess in 1916, then by Arthur Chanel, who later moved to Calgary. It is now owned by Mr. J.K. Thomson, Bowden, except for an acreage (20 acres) owned by Gordon Armstrong, from Scotland. They have a family of 2 children, Heather and Glen. Gordon is employed as a road-grader operator.

Noah Heare bought the W 1/2 15 in 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Heare moved here from Nanton. The family are Perron, Ricinus; Doris (Mrs. R. Olson) Red Deer; Blanche, (Mrs. R. Aldham) and Ellen Hodge of Calgary. Stanley owns the land and lives there. N.E. 9 was owned by Paul LeCerf, then Thomas Ennes, and Frank Howse and later by J.J. Kenzle. NW 9 was

owned by Newton Burgess, then by Vern Byer. This half section now owned by G. Walker.

Richard Hughes owned the SW 9 and sold it to Sam Speer. Mr. and Mrs. Speer lived here with their nephew, Lawrence Pinkham. This land was also owned by Elvis Thierkel in 1914 and sold to N.R. Lee. Sam Ennes bought it in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Howse now live on it.

Edward Verstract homesteaded N.W. 10 in 1908. Frank Hopkins owned it until he died in 1926. Stanley Heare now owns it.

Herman Belt homesteaded SW 10 in 1908. Richard Jackson owns it now. Mr. and Mrs. Nipper lived here for a while before moving to Kevisville. N 1/2 8 was H.B. Co. land and bought by Charles Byer. James Lingo, Louisiana is now the owner of this half section. SW 8 was bought by Stanley Heare and later bought by Arthur Wagers, Innisfail.



Building A. Neal's barn.

Ed Jump homesteaded NE 7. J.W. Montgomery bought this land and sold in 1967 to James Lingo. This quarter was homesteaded by Theodore Jump and in 1922 Charles Gloer bought it. Mr. and Mrs. Gloer lived there until Mr. Gloer's death in 1927. They came from Carmangay, Alberta. The children that were with them at this time were: Wilbur, Idaho; Ed, Raven; Amanda, Mrs. Woodruff, Kelowna; Edna, Montana. Mrs. Maggie Hunt, an older daughter, lives east of Innisfail. Gerald Hall owned this land and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Carron, Calgary now own it.

Frank Long homesteaded SE 7 in 1929. They came from Calgary. Their children Eva in Manitoba; Norma in Edmonton; Iris (Mrs. J. W. Montgomery, Sr.), Raven; Robert, (deceased), married Edith McKain and she resides in B.C.. Frank willed S.E. 7 to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Montgomery Sr.

HENRY DOLPHIN (1884-1964)

In 1902 at the age of sixteen, Henry Dolphin, along with his father and mother, an older brother Frank, and a younger sister Mary left Junction City, Kansas by covered wagon. After a two year stay in N. Dakota they continued northward, then westward. When they arrived in Olds, Alberta, in 1904, they felt this was what they wanted. News spread that west of Innisfail was open range, plenty of wood and water. Angus Dolphin, the father, homesteaded one quarter, and

Henry the adjoining quarter. Here, Grandpa and Grandma Dolphin lived until their death.

In April 1917, Henry Dolphin married Annie Montgomery, an Irish lass. From this union six children were born. James (Bud) farms on a section east of the home quarter. Hugh, farms the two homestead quarters. Mary (Mrs. Gordon Moore) lives near Sylvan Lake; Margaret, (Mrs. James Savage) lives at Raven; Anne (Mrs. Norris Switzer) lives at Leslieville; Francis (Mrs. Dean Cofell) lives at Coaldale, Alberta.

Henry Dolphin lived a very useful and unpretentious life. His philosophy of life was a simple one — "Love your fellowman" and he practiced this in his daily life. He served as trustee of the school board for a number of years, and held other community positions as well. His ability to walk was limited due to a tubercular hip at an early age plus a couple of accidents later. Through all his misfortunes, he kept his optimistic attitude. In 1936 his helpmate passed away at the age of 39, leaving a family of six; the youngest whom was only six. However he was determined that the family would stay together. In later years Henry Dolphin thoroughly enjoyed his fifteen grandchildren. In 1964, he passed away at the Innisfail Hospital, at the age of seventy eight.

KNIGHT

Mrs. E. Knight was born July 1, 1891, in Montana, U.S.A. She was married to Dave Knight June 12, 1909. They left there by covered wagon in 1910. They lived first north-east of Raven, but moved to Caroline where plenty of feed, water, and open range were abundant. In 1916 they moved back to Raven where they have resided ever since. Mrs. Knight has four children, Eric lives on the family farm with his mother, Rose (Mrs. E. Ostergren) at Eckville, Jim at Caroline, Mae (Mrs. Ed. Gloer) in Raven.

CECIL O. SAVAGE (1886-1966)

At the young age of seventeen, Cecil Savage left his family in England & sailed for Canada. He worked in Eastern Canada until he had enough money to go west. In 1906 he filed on a homestead in the Raven district, now owned by son Jim. He spent some time as a lineman for the telephone company in Calgary. On Dec. 25, 1912 he married Lillian Jacobs whose father owned the Innisfail hotel. For a short while the newly weds lived at Elko, B.C. where Mr. Savage managed a ranch. In 1916 they moved back to their homestead in the Raven district where they lived until their death.

Mr. & Mrs. Savage raised a family of eight children. Two sons served in World War II.

Mr. Savage was keenly interested in civic affairs. For twenty-five years he served as councillor and later as reeve of the Municipal District of Raven. The Innisfail Hospital Board was fortunate in obtaining his capable service for a period of thirty-one years. It was not until Dec. 31, 1965 that he retired. The present day "referral system" regarding hospital services was originally the brain child of Mr. Savage. Many trips were made to Edmonton on its behalf. In

1964 Mrs. Savage passed away and in 1966 Mr. Savage passed away at the age of eighty. A life of dedicated service to his community had ended.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Savage are: Jim living on a quarter adjoining the family farm; Kathleen (Mrs. Laurie Jenson) in Innisfail; Bill in Calgary; Patsy (Mrs. Hal Craig) in Tempe Arizona; and Fred in Edmonton. Evelyn, Marjorie (Mrs. A. Fleischman) and Irene deceased.

While threshing, Cecil Savage was separator man and one day was standing on top of the separator where he could watch the machine more closely. He heard but did not see an airplane which swooped down over the threshing outfit. He came down in a hurry and said "I thought that separator was coming apart at the seams!"

ALDEN "CURLY" TAYLOR

"Curly" Taylor came from Nova Scotia, worked for a time in a logging camp in B.C. Came to North Raven district in 1904. In 1905 Chas Taylor homesteaded a nearby quarter and built a log home. The house was continually occupied until about 6 years ago. Curly Taylor married Louise Morgeau. To each of his daughters when they married, Baptiste Morgeau gave as a dowry, ten fine brood mares. Louise was no exception and from this start came the Taylor's outstanding horses which they continued to raise for many years. Curly always kept a good, well fed driving team nearby, so when an emergency trip had to be made he was called upon. He often blazed trails to help survey roads, he was game warden, a councillor for the M.D. of Raven for forty years and was on the school board. He was an avid hunter and often spent six weeks to two months on a hunting trip. Although he was a game warden he was respected and liked by sportsmen.

When the original Hale Lake Association was formed, Curly Taylor and Cyrus Clay were sent to Innisfail to negotiate for thirty seven acres of C.P.R. land for a public amusement ground. The first stampede was held in 1920. The Taylors took an active part in community affairs. At that time Hale Lake was much deeper and larger and boat races (and water sports) were held. Sarah Taylor and her cousin Nora Record were left in charge of baby Lulu. After boat riding Nora (wearing a pair of new white shoes) stepped out first and Sarah reached to hand her baby Lulu. Nora would not take an extra step and dirty her shoes. The boat lurched and Lulu fell in the water between the two girls.

Mrs. Taylor acted as midwife to the entire community and delivered many of her grandchildren. She was a young bride expecting her first child. It was April and six feet of snow; travel was impossible and she was the only woman available when the second set of Clay twins were born. She delivered them and worked over them all night to save them.

Taylors had a family of ten. Sarah married Mike Thomas, they have four children and live at Stauffer; Norman's wife Dolly Sonto passed away, they have three children; Jim married Agnes Syren, he and his second wife Flo live in Langley, B.C. He had two

children. Lillian married Eli Cave. They have ten children and live in New Hill; Lula married Joe Brandson and has four children; Mary married Marno Brandson and has three children and lives at Stauffer; Alice married Walter Syren, lives at Candor and has two children; Raymond married Alice Lecerf. He was killed in a car accident. They have nine children. Frances married Fred Molander, lives at Eckville and has four girls; Thelma "Chick" married Ralph Lewis and lives at Stauffer.

The Taylors helped when the Raven Union Church was built. Mrs. Taylor belonged to the Ladies Aid. During the depression she made and sold quilts, made of their own wool. Curly was always proud to have the biggest wood pile in the country. In 1967 Curly Taylor was killed when his tractor went over a steep embankment. Mrs. Taylor has sold the farm and retired. At eighty-three she drives her own car and is alert and active.

When "Hale Lake" grounds opened it replaced Fenkel's Grove as a community gathering place. Horse races, boat races, hardball were all enjoyed there. Curly Taylor's home was a stopping house on the old Hudson Bay Trail to Rocky.



Hunting season. Elza Cave, Maurice Cave, Henry Linneberg.



J. K. Johannson seeding outfit.

RAVEN

HISTORY OF RAVEN COMMUNITY by Mrs Edwin (Ted) MacDonald

The Raven history would begin in 1901 when William Berry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Berry came to Alberta from O'Neil, Nebraska, and looked the land over — which was west of Red Deer and south — and when he wrote to his parent he told them of all the open and wonderful fertile land. Thomas Berry and two of his other sons, Dave and Harper came in 1902 and all filed on homesteads — the three quarters of Sec. 14 - 36- 4 - w5. Thomas Berry went back to Nebraska and after settling his affairs, moved his wife and remaining children, Preston, Harold, Grace, Mae, Bernice, Hazel, Charles and Myrtle to settle in what is now the central part of Raven District. Preston later filed on the remaining quarter of 14 and Dave filed on N.W. 12. Later Harold filed on S.E. 10.

Tom Berry almost decided to homestead at Hespero. He liked the land there, but wanted to be beside a river.

They brought two carloads of supplies even potatoes to plant, also grain. All was stored in one building — the one in which they were to live — chickens and all. They packed water from the river. A large black pot used to heat water was kept by the river and the clothes were washed there, handy to the water supply.

Thomas Berry started the first store and Post Office which is still on his homestead, S.W. 14. The Raven school was built on Dave Berry's homestead. It is now demolished and salvaged in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kemtrup.

One day when Mr. & Mrs. Berry were away, a fire started in the post office. The children formed a bucket brigade carrying water up the hill from the Raven river and saved the building.

In 1904 Thomas Berry set up a saw mill on his place by the Raven River. The sawyer was Robert Shannon who came in 1894 and was the first settler. He lived six miles south east of Berry's and also by the Raven River. Other saw mill operator's that set up mills later were: Jack Hart, Dan McGrandle and Mr. McElroy. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Berry never turned away a traveller and one time had a railroad crew of 33 men and 66 horses stay over night. For horsefeed, supper, breakfast and bed they only charged \$1.00 to each man. These men were bringing material across country to the Rocky Mountain House area.

People coming for timber from the east — Batemans, Bakers, etc. often would stop at Berrys.

Men from Innisfail brought out prospective homesteaders to look over the land and lots of questions were asked.

Harold Berry obtained his father's homestead and also his brother Preston's homestead. He farmed until 1948 when he retired and moved to Red Deer. Magnus Gyling, a bachelor, bought from Harold

Berry and lived there until he went to Calgary in 1968. Elmer Stoyberg farms this land.

In 1928 Harold Berry married Miss Blanche Vandaele of Markerville and they had one daughter, Marie. In 1961 death took Mr. Harold Berry. Mrs. Berry and Marie are in Delta B.C. Marie married Stan Burn and they have three sons, Hal, Neil and Ross.

Harper Berry bought his brother William's quarter in 1925 and farmed that until his death in 1946. His widow Victoria, then sold to H. Stoyberg, formerly of Kevisville. The Stoyberg family are Doris (Sorensen) of Bonanza Alberta; Dagny (Johnson); Tova (Lodewyk) and Brian, all of Calgary; and Elmer. Mr. and Mrs. Stoyberg lived here until his death in 1966. Mrs. Stoyberg lives in Calgary and her son Elmer and wife Elsey and children, Richard, Darcy, Sharon and Neil now live here.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Berry remained in this district and were pioneers of the highest calibre. William Berry, the eldest son, lived to the age of 91, in Edmonton. The only remaining members of this family are: Mae (Mrs. Edward Dezall) of Innisfail and Myrtle (Mrs. Manrose) of Olympia, Was. U.S.A.

When Berry's came there were Bob Shannons on the Raven River and Spurgeons on the Medicine south of Markerville. Spurgeons raised horses and had several hundred of them. The story goes that one day Shannon and Spurgeon met and were discussing the arrival of a third homesteader. One said to the other, "I can't see why that Berry had to come in here, there's no more pasture land than what you and I can use!"

Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Blokolb lived S.E.12. Sam hauled mail from Markerville. Thomas Pollitt homesteaded N.E.12 and bought S.E.12 from Sam Blokolb. Tom played for dances, accompanied by Bill Berry and Sam Blokolb. Sam now 92 years old, still plays his violin. Mrs. Blokolb (Grace Berry) is now deceased. Pollitts lived there until 1920 when they went to Victoria B.C. The land now belongs to Andrew Fleischman, nephew of Mr. Pollitt. Andrew married Marjorie Savage and they had two children Joan (Mrs. Vernon Hindbo) and Gwen (Mrs. Ken Budvarson). Marjorie died in 1956. Andrew farms and enjoys his fishing.

S.D. (Buz) Herrold and his brother, Washburn, homesteaded one quarter each of the west half of section 18 in 1905. Buz Herrold and brother Washburn came together. Washburn worked out and sent money home. Buz stayed on the farm and sent for his bride-to-be. In 1907 Kate arrived in Innisfail and Buz met her with a team of oxen, just the running gear of the wagon with a plank laid across it. They were married and drove home to Raven. Fording the river the new bride got her feet wet. Quite an experience for this young lady. They lived on the same farm until their retirement in 1944 when they moved to Innisfail. Loans from Buz Herrold helped many struggling new settlers to get established.

Washburn died in Okotoks in 1918 in the 'flu epidemic. Buz bought his brother's quarter. Buz and

Kate passed away in the 1950's. Harold and Marion Dial bought the land and still live there.

Mr. V. L. Cline and two sons Burnell and Levi came from Iowa in 1905 and homesteaded three quarters of Sec. 20-36-3-w5. They had a herd of cattle. They cut their hay and raked it but did not stack it, which was not too successful here. They went back to the U.S. According to early settlers a young couple expecting their first child lived on this land — no one remembers their name. The husband went away to work in Innisfail to earn much needed cash for the new family. He was on his way home to his wife for the expected event. As he was riding through the hills west of Innisfail, he was robbed and killed for his wages. His body was found and the police came to tell his wife the sad news. They found she had given birth to twins and had died there alone waiting for a husband who didn't come home. They buried her and the babies on the place. One more tragedy added to the cost of developing a new country.

In 1918 Mr. F.W. Harden came from Okotoks and bought the S1/2 Sec. 20. The family moved here in 1919 — the children were Leslie, Bruce, Maurice, Violet, Blanche and Ethel. Mr. Harden was a butcher by trade and he, and son Les, sold meat at threshing time which was much appreciated before refrigeration. He lived here until a short time before his death.



Ted and M. S. MacDonald, child Garry Wilson.

Henry Kemtrup bought in 1945 from the Harden estate. Henry came from Denmark and married Thora Morck from Dickson. They have three sons, Harold farming at Dickson; Melvin, a veterinarian at Brooks; and Michael who farms with his father.

Mr. James Ferguson bought N. E. 20 in 1937 from Henry Rowles. John Wagers now owns it.

Bruce Cressman bought S.W. 1 and homesteaded S.E. 2 in 1929. Bruce married and had four children

— Bruce (Bud), Lyle, Roma and Donna. His wife passed away; Bruce remarried and had six children, Jim, Harry, David, Gwen, Dorothy and Mary Ann. Jim married Elizabeth Rosenauer and has one son, Emmett, and lives on the home place. Harry lives near by. He married Marjorie Waunch and has three children, Bruce and Donald (twins) and Teresa.

Bruce and his sons followed the rodeo's for many years.

Mr. E.B. Holroyd bought from C.R. Brownlee in 1924. Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Holroyd lived there until 1947 when they sold to John Olson. Their family is, Elbert (married Nellie Mynott) of Rocky Mtn. House has four children; Idabell (Mrs. Howard Herber) of Stauffer has five children; Ruby (Mrs. Alfred Anderson) (See Anderson); Leonard (married Winnifred Mynott) lives in Calgary and has four children; Phyllis (Mrs. Alvin McKain) see McKain. They retired to Red Deer where Mrs. Holroyd passed away in 1966. Eldon makes his home with his daughters.

William Meech homesteaded N.E. 6 in 1905 and later Hans Fleischman purchased it. Hans' future wife came from Germany in 1906. They started farming with one cow and one horse, and lived in a log cabin which was added to as the family increased. All the children were born on the farm with a midwife in attendance. Eggs and home made butter were traded for groceries. Mr. & Mrs. Fleischman retired in 1943 and moved to Calgary in 1962. Both are now deceased and buried in Innisfail. Their children are: George (deceased), Rudolph, William and Karl of Calgary. John at High River, Andrew at Raven, Walter at Kamloops B.C., Dora (Mrs. Wm. Sloan) of Dickson and Helen (deceased). Hans Fleischman bought N.W.6. It was homesteaded by A. Rhodes, who moved to Caroline. S.W.6 was homesteaded by Hans in 1906.

Ernest Mikka homesteaded N.E.10 in 1907. Other owners have been Mrs. Annie Walker in 1925, Ward Cook in 1946 and Mr. G. Nanninga of Caroline in 1962.

William Mustard homesteaded S.E. 18 in 1911 (see Mustard). Malcolm S. MacDonald purchased this land in 1918. In 1919, Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald and two sons Edwin (Ted) and Elmer (Bud) and daughter Marion came from Okotoks. It was owned by son Edwin (Ted) from 1950 till his death in 1971. Mrs. MacDonald sold it to Oluf Nielsen in 1972.

Fred Winters bought the W1/2-5 in 1925, and he sold to Ray Dial in 1927. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thompson and family lived here until 1938. Ray Dial sold to Mr. Odin Larsen (see O. Larsen).

Nels Lind bought W1/2 Sec. 7 in 1928, and sold to Oscar Coleman in 1930. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman and family Frank, Clarence, Nellie, Chloe and Oscar Jr. lived here until they sold it in 1945 to Paul O. Gardner. The Gardners lived here until 1951 when they sold out to Olson Bros. of Dickson who still own it.

R. Morlsen bought N1/2 sec. 8 in 1933, and Willie Christiansen bought NE8 in 1960.

W. Johannsen bought N.W.8 in 1937. It is now owned by E.V. Bjarnason.

Andrew Carlstad bought S.W. 17 in 1934 and lived there until his death in 1954. It is also owned by E.V. Bjarnason.

Clarence Coleman bough N.W. 17 in 1935 and sold it to Leo Olesen in 1938. Mr. and Mrs. Leo Olesen reside here now.

James Metcalf bought the E1/2-17 in 1928. In 1934 he sold S.E. quarter to Einer Jensen. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen and their family Harvey, Bennie, Agner and Einer Jr. lived there until 1948 when they sold it to Chris Pedersen. Harvey married Edna Pearson and lives in Innisfail; Bennie (married to Vera Andersen), lives in B.C. and Einer Jr., a pilot, lives in eastern Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen moved to B.C. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Pedersen lived there until 1966 when they sold to Wade Jameson and Pedersens moved to Creston B.C. Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen had one daughter Karen, who with her husband also lives at Creston B.C. Mr. Metcalf sold the N.E. 1/4 to Arvid Landin and they live there yet. Their family are Arthur, Gary, Agnes, and Shirley.

Ernie Houghton bought the south half 19 in 1927 from the C.P.R. and lived there until 1940 when he sold out to Ted Bioletti. Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Houghton and their girls — Doreen, Jean, Mary and Clarabelle moved to Calgary and they still reside there.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bioletti and family, Teddy and Lyla, lived there until 1953 when they went to Red Deer renting their farm to Leo Olesen. In 1958 H. R. (Hal) Dial purchased this land and still owns it.

Arthur Cave bought N.E. 19 from the C.P.R. in 1921. Allen Ross purchased it in 1953 and sold it to Ray Mundell in 1965.



Travis Rowles, Stan Pearson, Katie Lamb, Frank Harden.

The school section No. 29 — Elmer Haupt purchased the S.W. and N.E. quarters, Leo Schmidek purchased S.E. 1/4 and S.H. Budvarson the N.W. 1/4.

C.P.R. section 3. S.E. 3 was bought by Clarence Bell in 1932. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bud Archer of California. N.E. 3 is mostly all water.

Section 11 is the school section and is leased by Ed Gloer. Section 13 was C.P.R. land and was purchased by Mrs. J. Stevenson in 1931. She came to reside with her two sons Charles and Cecil. They lived there until 1950 when they sold to Alfred Bonner. Mrs. Stevenson and sons moved to Red Deer. Mr. and

Mrs. Bonner and family Dale (Guy), Genevieve, and Marlene lived here till they moved to Calgary in 1953. They sold it to Arthur Wagers of Innisfail who in turn sold the east half to Joe Stannard. It is known as Moose Creek Ranch.

Edward J. Dezall bought the east half of section 15 in 1917. He also owned Raven store until 1920 when he sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Walker of Calgary. Mr. Dezall married Mae Berry and farmed this land until they retired to Innisfail in 1947. Their family is Ken of Cowley, Alberta; Charles of Caroline; Ernest of Calgary; Marie (Mrs. Jack Dorsey) of Edmonton, and Irene (Mrs. Curly Wren) of Caroline. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gloer reside there now. Their family is William and Allan.

When Mae Berry was working in Innisfail she was always glad of a chance to go home. Frank Anderson offered to lend her a team if she would take along a prospector, and so save Frank the drive out. She accepted the offer, but found she had been given a balky horse which, when it got into some muskeg, laid down. Mae got out and hit the horse with a stick as hard as she could. The horse jumped and ran, leaving Mae to wade through the water and mud.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Walker were proprietors of Raven store and post office. They were active in Community affairs and built a Community Hall in which were held the festivities of the Community. In 1942 they sold their store to their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Beale. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Walker retired to White Rock, B.C. Their family were: Millie, Connie, Jessie, Sylvia and Gertrude (Beale) now of Calgary.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Beale had the Raven store and Post Office until Mr. Beale's death August 31, 1951. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Beale are: Dennis, of Calgary and Judith (Mrs. Tony Dyrkas) of Calgary. The Raven store and Post Office was then sold to Walter Simpson from Manitoba. He operated the business until 1954 when he sold it to Jack Kenzle of Benito, Manitoba. Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Kenzle operated it until 1968 when they sold it to Mr. Howard Jensen of Innisfail. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Kenzle are: Gerald of Vancouver B.C., Ronald in Equador S. America and Gilbert of Caroline.

Mr. Cecil Walsh owned E 1/2 23. Mr. and Mrs. Walsh lived there until her death in 1949. J. (Bud) Dolphin now owns it. Mr. and Mrs. Dolphin and their family Brian, Randy and Kevin reside there.

George Scott bought section 26 from the H.B. Co. in 1930. Mr. and Mrs. Scott resided there until they returned to Calgary. Their family, Fred, Hilton, Florence, Sylvia and Martha were here with their parents. They sold to Einer Nielsen and later it was sold to Wilfred Hansen. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen and their three children live there.

George Scott also bought section 25 in 1930, his daughter Mrs. Sylvia Sutherland owns it.

Three miles west of Berry's was a logging camp called Tally-Hoo, at which mail arrived.

A petition was circulated in 1943 to have the main road gravelled. Hal Berry signed and added "1903-1943 MUD!"

Oliver Cave, and sons Arthur, Elza and Carl were early settlers. Carl returned to the U.S. They came from Nebraska. Oliver and Elza settled in the New Hill area. Arthur homesteaded SW30-36-3-W5th.

Arthur married Mary Pearson and had seven children, Ralph, Red Deer; Mabel (Bateman) Red Deer; Bernice (Shannon), Kevisville; Goldie (Coleman), Langley, B.C.; Beulah (Coleman), Stauffer; Clara, (Mayberry), Red Deer; Clarence, Calgary. Mrs. Cave died in 1942 and Arthur later married Fern Gardner. They had two children, Arthur and Allan. Arthur died in 1970 at 93 years.

Elza, wife Vera and son Maurice came to homestead at New Hill in 1908. Though never endowed with many worldly possessions, they were very hospitable neighbors and enjoyed the simple things of life. Elza played several instruments, and often he and Vera sang together. Maurice passed away at an early age. Two more children were born on the homestead, Eli of Stauffer and Sadie (Innes), of Red Deer). Elza, Vera and Maurice are buried in the Raven cemetery.

The musical talents carried on to the next generation. Cave Bros., sons of Eli and Lil Cave have their own orchestra.

William Jarmie homesteaded SE 30 and sold to A. Cave.

Mr. Robert Mabbs homesteaded the NW 30 and this was later sold to Henry Rowles who sold it to Allen Ross who now owned all section 30. Mr. Ross and his wife, the former Alice Linneberg, and their sons Kenneth and James lived there until 1965 when they sold their property to Ray Mundell and retired to Innisfail. Mrs. Ross is now deceased.

Mr. Jules Lecerf homesteaded SW 24, then in turn it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Rickter Jensen (who came from Denmark, and lived there until 1936), later being owned by E.S. MacDonald and now Joe Stannard.

Bert H. Reno homesteaded SE 24 in 1905 and went back to the U.S.A., Mr. Henry Wee bought it in 1922 and lived there until his death in 1944. He was a bachelor. It is now owned by Ray Mundell.

Fred Winters homesteaded NW 24 in 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Winters and their family moved there in 1922 and went to Innisfail in 1925. The family included Mervyn, Calgary; Vernon, Indus; Kenneth and Aubrey, Calgary. Mr. and Mrs. Winters later moved to Calgary. Mrs. Annie Walker bought the land and sold it to Peter Thompson who sold to Ted MacDonald in 1943. Joe Stannard now owns it. Hans Hansen homesteaded NE 18 in 1905, leaving for the U.S.A., shortly after, Leslie Harden bought it in 1925. Leo Olesen bought from L. Harden's family, Lloyd and Irene, but they retained an acreage for their dwellings.

William F. Campbell homesteaded NE 2 in 1906.

Saddle horses were always kept handy. Someone would ride out several times a day to check on the

horses to see that none were down in the quick sand or muskeg. Often a moose would run with the cattle. Bears were frequent visitors.

Mr. McDermott from Innisfail used to come out to ice fish on the Raven near Berrys. One day he lost his watch and chain through the ice. When he left he said to Hal "I'll give you a dollar if you can find my watch". Some time later Hal was fishing and much to his surprise he snagged the watch.

RAVEN CHURCH

In 1925 the men of the Community got out logs and prepared them for the construction of the church.

In 1926 Preston Berry from Jasper was asked to supervise the work and there was splendid co-operation by everyone, both men and women. This church and cemetery are enclosed along the highway between Raven and Caroline and is used for weddings or funerals and ministers hold services there. It was built with the understanding that any denomination may use it.

Much credit should be given to pioneer ministers and in particular, to Rev. Charles Waring who came in 1910 as a student Minister from Crookston, Minnesota. Rev. Waring had three points to hold Sunday Services, of about 10 miles radius. In those days of unpredictable roads and with horses and buggy only, it was a credit to him and his team of horses that he faithfully served his people.

In 1911 Rev. Waring married Miss Mary Adams, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Louis E. Adams. In 1923, at the early age of 36, he died and is buried in the Raven Cemetery. His widow, Mary, raised her family of five, Richard, Donald, Dorothy, and Betty, all now in the U.S., and Jean (Mrs. Chester M. Robinson) of Calgary.

Cyrus Jensen was superintendent of the Sunday School for 25 years. The pews in the church were all built by Mr. Eldon Holroyd.



Raven Church.

RAVEN TRADING STORE

The Raven Trading Store was located one mile west of Raven on Hwy. 54. It was built by Andy van Heiswick and operated during the 1950s. Due to ill health, Andy sold to Mr. and Mrs. Westwood and they later sold to K. Talentyre.

D.A. ADAMS FAMILY

David and Julia Adams came from Birtle, Manitoba to Alberta. In 1912 they came to the Raven district and filed on a homestead, south of Raven, across the road from Adams lake. They had six children and four more were born while they lived at Raven. They lived for a short time west of Dickson and at Kegisville before moving to the Pigeon Lake area where they stayed until 1947. Mr. Adams passed away there and Mrs. Adams died in 1966. They had six daughters and four sons: Lester married Edith Bateman of Raven. They have four children; Cecil now deceased; Grace (Mrs. Wm. Bateman) lives at Black Diamond. They have thirteen children; Mary (Mrs. Wm Shenfield) lives in Vancouver and has two children; Edith (Mrs. Alfred Hudson) of Bowden has four children; Margaret (Mrs. Wm. Huss) of Lacombe has five children; Gladys (Mrs. Wm. Buchanan) of Caroline had two daughters. The youngest, Marvinna, was killed in a tractor accident at the age of 11 years. Percy of Rocky Mtn. House; Eva (Mrs. Charlie Jefferies) of Innisfail had one son. Eva is deceased. Victor lives at Spruce View (see V. Adams).

JOHN. A. MORISON

John Morison was born on the farm in Big Bend which his parents homesteaded and lived on from 1898 to 1972. As a young man he played both hard and soft ball and often walked to Innisfail and back for a game. He worked for several years on the University of Alberta Farm, Edmonton. John was a 4-H Leader for twenty-seven years. He first belonged to the Olds 4-H Club. He helped organize the Innisfail Club and was a director until 1944, organized the Markerville 4-H and was a leader until 1951, then organized the Kegisville Club and was leader for twenty years. He helped organize Sundre and Caroline Clubs. John's wife, Margaret has been an able and devoted assistant in his work.

Margaret Bull of Oyen worked for a year in the Cereal Hospital and later in Innisfail hospital. They were married in 1946. In 1951 they bought the Hans Fleischman place SW6-36-3W5. He has raised purebred cattle since 1939 and shown stock at many fairs and shows including the Toronto Royal. On more than one occasion his entries showed in the top ten of their class. Margaret made a show blanket of the prize ribbons.

Margaret and John have one daughter, Irene, (Mrs. John McLerie) of Bonnyville has two children. Robert farms and Kenneth clerks in Spruce View Co-op Store. John was the first baby christened in the original Innisfail United Church and his grandson was the last.

NEW RAVEN

In the year 1938 the New Raven School was built as a community project. Rocky Mountain School division furnished the material and hired one carpenter (Gerlev Andersen). The first members on the school board were Richard Nielsen, Einar Jensen and Jim Metcalf (also Sec-Treas). First teacher was Miss Mildred Andersen.

Prior to building of the school, children from New Raven district attended school at Dickson and Old Raven. Owing to the long distance to these schools, Mr. & Mrs. Metcalf, opened a class in their home as both were teachers. Children attending these classes were Anna Thomsen, Arnold Olesen, Leo Jensen, Wilma Armstrong, and their own children Ann and John.

The school closed in 1953 and children were bussed to Dickson.

After being used as a community centre for a short period, the school, barn and teacherage were sold and land returned to Mr. Paulsen.



Putting in time.

RED RAVEN

KEVISVILLE GENERAL HISTORY

Kevisville post office served the districts of Red Raven, Rich Hill and Crooked Creek and most organizations covered this area.

Robert Shannon arrived in 1895. By 1910 a number of settlers were established here. Some pioneer families are not mentioned elsewhere. Hans Krusell had the land now owned by Harry Attwell. Their only child, Gertrude (Mrs. Tony Juuti), lives in Red Deer. The Krusell home was used as a temporary school after the Red Raven log school burned in 1916. Mr. and Mrs. LaVallee homesteaded land now owned by Robert Brownlee. They had two sons George and Frank. They owned one of the first cars in the district. It had buggy wheels and was chain driven. Mr. and Mrs. LaVallee both died here and were buried on their own land. One son also passed away. The last member of the family sold the farm and with the money started for Innisfail. He did not arrive. He was not heard of again and foul play was suspected. The Pamplin family lived NW of the school. A member of the family working in Calgary brought diphtheria to their home. Three of their four children died of the disease and were buried on the place. Baby Louise survived. Charles Weaver was a bachelor, he owned the land on which the Kevisville cemetery is located. Percy Wright and Carl Jensen, also bachelors, homesteaded adjoining quarters nearby. All grain was stacked and threshed from the stack. A homesteader's ability as a farmer was judged by his number of stacks but two hundred bushels was a lot of grain.

The pioneers worked hard but also found time for fun and relaxation. Dances were held in the school and in larger homes. Ben Lee homesteaded the land north of Axel Lundgren. Picnics were held on the river flat south east of Bertelsen's and Ben's home was a favorite location for dances which followed these picnics. When Ben was building his home it was his hound dog's custom to follow Ben into the partially finished house and jump out of the window.



Early Red Raven ball team — the Jack Pine Savages —
Back Row: Lester McKain, Tom Benson, Oscar Lundgren, Charles Baynham. Front Row: Raymond McKain, Lester Johnson, Henry Schrader, Bunny Brightman.

When work progressed to the second floor the dog jumped out of the window - just once - he landed a safe but wiser dog. On special occasions, families drove as far as Fenkel's Grove for picnics. Mr. Nairn, a bachelor, was an early settler. He purchased land from Mynott and lived there many years. He only retired to Calgary when his eyesight failed.

Land continued to change hands until in the thirties there was a real influx of newcomers. Some remained to make permanent homes, others stayed only a few years. Among the latter were Fred and Dorothy McIntosh and their children, Gail, Eleanor and Shirley. Dorothy was on the local school board. They moved to Calgary. Granville and Molly Duchesney had two daughters, Maude and Marguerite. They farmed two miles west of Kevisville store. Wilfred and Edna Miller and family of seven accompanied by Edna's father, Ernie Knott, moved in close by. Miller soon returned to Disbury, but Ernie Knott stayed for some time. He was an accomplished and willing entertainer much in demand.

The local Agricultural Society was formed in 1938. Field days were held in Crooked Creek school, at various farms and, after Gwendale Community hall was built in 1950, at the hall. Einer Nielsen had clover and hay experimental plots for four years. A bull ring operated for three years. The Kevisville 4-H was organized through this society which was active until the early fifties.

In 1939, the Women's Auxiliary to the Agricultural Society was organized. This group was active until 1957. In 1940 one thousand Irish Cobbler and Bliss Triumph potato eyes were purchased for the members. The ladies had a refreshment booth at the annual field days, arranged for poultry, flower and vegetable exhibits and later added baking, sewing and fancy work classes. During the war, members knit socks, throws, etc. for overseas. There were visits from the Home Economist, short courses and home study material. Hedwig Brown, Ella Norgaard and Mrs. L.F. Reesor were prominent members. When the Agricultural Society folded and the Auxiliary lagged for lack of members, the latter was changed to a hobby club which is still a large active interested group.

In May, 1948, Kevisville Credit Union got a charter. Herbie Westergaard did much of the organizational work and was the first secretary-treasurer. In 1949 Ena Baynham took over this position and still acts in this capacity. The credit union started with twenty-three members and fifty-one dollars. Growth has been slow but steady. In 1973 there are one hundred and sixty-five members and assets of almost twenty-thousand dollars.

In the forties the Marchant place changed hands several times. Two owners were Colerick and Wilcox. Mrs. Wilcox now lives in Edmonton. The Thomsen's with daughters Marie and Kirstine, lived for a short time on what is now Holiday Ranch owned by Jim and Marie Hopkins. Gordon Wilson and Ethel Caton were married and moved here from Calgary in 1957. They purchased the Frank Fifield



Bridge to Moose Mountain, across the Red Deer, washed out about 1915.

place. Gordon farms and does cat work. Several years ago they lost their home by fire. Cook Bolander and his family bought the Frank Siebert land about 1960. They gradually remodelled and enlarged their house until they had an attractive, comfortable home. In 1972 it was destroyed by fire and the family have since left the district. They have four children, Wilfred, Grant, Donna and Bonnie. Gordon Davis grew up in Innisfail. He joined the airforce and served overseas and bought the Wm. Brownlee place and moved on to it with his wife Binnie and children, Barbara and Billy. In 1972 Binnie's mother, Edith Burgess, came from England to make her home here.

Electricity came to the district in 1954 and soon covered the area. Telephone service took longer. There were phones before 1917 but, during the depression, most were taken out. For many years Kevisville area was served by very few phones. In 1966 when new lines were built and direct dialing installed about half the residents got the phone. In 1972 - a much anticipated year - the telephone lines were put underground and now everyone enjoys phone service.

The Red Raven hard ball team - the "Jack Pine Savages" was started about 1912. In 1914 it disbanded for World War I due to lack of players. By 1919 it was again active. Kevisville has had a ball team almost continuously since that time. By 1937 there was a soft ball team, then for a time hard ball again took over. By 1958, soft ball was here to stay. Over the years Kevisville team has been in several leagues and their record of wins is outstanding.

THE KEVISVILLE FIRE March 1931

The winter of 1930-31 was one of the mildest ever recorded and there was no snow on the ground. Many of the farmers were clearing land by the axe and hand labor method. Because of the dry weather there were ground fires here and there.

One day the first week in March started out with beautiful weather almost like summer. School was in session with over thirty pupils. About 2:30 p.m. a strong wind came up from the north. It became stronger as the minutes went by until it became very dark in the school. Then the high sash windows on the north side blew open and a cloud of dust, mingled with ashes, came in from each one. Some of the pupils became terrified, the older ones helped so much to reassure the small ones.

My two Grade IX pupils Alvin McKain and Gordon Jump nailed the sash windows shut and went out and scouted around to see what was happening. I was very grateful to them. Their presence helped me to hold my head and to comfort and control the younger ones. We knew there was a fire and lots of smoke but didn't know where it came from. I thought of the plowed pig pasture across the road on Steve Bensons place as the only place we could go if the school house caught fire.

A little later Mrs. Harry McKain with her two small children Wesley and Dolores came in the door. Their home had burnt with all their belongings, set on fire by flying embers. She mentioned the pot of chicken and noodles she'd had on the stove so her children could have some as soon as they got home.

Somewhat later things lightened a little. I don't think the sight of falling snow could ever have been more welcome. The wind subsided after the snow started. The pupils that lived quite a distance away stayed at the school till about half-past six. I thought it was safe for them to go then as there was quite a coating of snow on the ground and the air was clear of smoke.

Later we learned of tragedy. Mr. Henry Nielsen had been driving on the road west of Red Raven and had been caught in the fire. He was brought to Steve Benson's home badly burned, then taken to Innisfail Hospital where he passed away.

As I write this I recall so vividly the long afternoon, the darkness in the daytime, and the dust, smoke and ashes coming through those small windows.

Mrs. Mildred (Benson) Bertelsen

KEVISVILLE CHURCH

Immigrants from Denmark, via the U.S.A. to Kevisville, in 1912 organized a congregation. The constitution was written, the name to be "Immanuel's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation" of Kevisville under the U.E.L.C. The Certificate of Incorporation is dated Edmonton 1916. The Dickson pastor would serve Kevisville.

The first council were Pastor Magnusen, Axel Lundgren, Jens Madsen and Pete Adamsen with Axel Lundgren also Treas. and Rasmus Jensen, Sec. Axel Lundgren served as Superintendent until Sunday School closed for lack of pupils some twenty years later.

In 1914 services were held in a house on Pete Adamsen's land NW12-35-4-5. When this house burned meetings were bi-monthly in member's homes. The hi-lites of the year were a joint S.S. picnic with Dickson held at Axel Lundgren's. Young and old attended. After a short program, games were played. A big boiler of coffee was prepared and lunch spread on the grass. Before Christmas everyone gathered to make paper flowers, etc. to decorate the Christmas tree for a party held at Chris Andersen's. Everyone enjoyed the carols and treats.

In March 1915 three acres of land on the southwest corner of SW18-35-3-5 was bought from Mr. Weaver for a cemetery.

When the congregation stopped Danish language services in 1939 and joined the Kevisville Church the name was changed to Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Kevisville.

Immanuel's D.L. Ladies Aid was also organized in 1912. Meetings were held monthly in the Danish language at the homes of the members. The pastor attended when possible or Axel Lundgren conducted the meeting of hymns, scripture reading, prayer, a story and business. A social hour and tasty lunch followed. Often each member brought her whole family along travelling many miles by horse and buggy or sled. The saddle-horse or bicycle also came in handy. The aim of the Ladies Aid was to work for God's kingdom. They helped with the pastor's wages, the Sunday School, the upkeep of the church, gave to missions and charity. Each fall a bazaar was held with handiwork auctioned. This event was looked forward to and well supported by the community. "Obelskiver" suppers, (a Danish dish) and community picnics with sports and pot-luck supper with fried chicken and home-made ice cream was enjoyed. Many blessed and happy days were shared over a period of forty eight years with a membership ranging from twenty to eight.



Kevisville church.

In the late twenties under the sponsorship of the Danish Lutheran Congregation, English church services were begun in the Red Raven school. These were held once a month with the pastor from Dickson in charge. A weekly Sunday School was also started with Mrs. Rasmus Jensen as leader. About a year later Herbie Westergaard took it over. He and his wife and the Mynotts looked after it for many years. Aaron Bertelsen was then in charge for several years with teacher help from the community. Sylvia McKain was leader one year and Mariam Lundgren two years before the Sunday School closed. The attendance for many years was good and the Christmas concert, picnic and Mother's Day program highlighted the year.

Herbie Westergaard began a Young People's group at the start of the thirties. They met in the school or in homes. Some guest speakers included Archie Morck, Arnfeldt Morck, Margaret Nissen, Andy Dyrholm and many others.

The worship services increased to two a month and later to every Sunday, served faithfully through the

years by pastors from Dickson. A church was built and dedicated in July 1938.

In early 1940 by a three-quarter majority vote, it was decided to apply for a change of name, deleting the word "Danish". This Certificate of Registration is dated Edmonton, May 15, 1940, and the name "Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Kevisville" became official.

An English Ladies' Aid group was formed in the late 1930s. Mrs. P.A. Mynott was the first president, followed by Mrs. A.W. Bertelsen, then Mrs. H. Westergaard for many years. Other ladies followed in this capacity for shorter terms. The membership has varied from around twenty in 1943 to seven.

In the early sixties regular services were suspended and the church used only for weddings, funerals, etc. In 1969 the congregation was dissolved and the church building turned over to the community. It is now a nondenominational community church. It and the cemetery are under a community board.

KEVISVILLE STORE

The Kevisville store was opened by Ernest Forbes at his farm home one half mile north of Kevisville corner. It was moved to the corner and taken over by Arthur and Nellie Lenox. In 1923 Raymond McKain bought the store. In 1937 Raymond built a new larger store and moved the stock into it. In 1944 Raymond sold the business and leased the buildings to Geo. Oliver. In 1946 when Geo. Oliver died Melvin Ross purchased the stock from the Geo. Oliver estate and the property from Raymond McKain. Melvin and Ethel Ross only kept the store for a short time before they sold to R.E. McColman. Ralph and Katherine McColman operated the store until the fall of 1951 when they sold to Phil and Kay Gibbons. McColman's have two sons Wayne and Glen now both married. Ralph and Katherine live in Red Deer, Wayne in Sherwood Park and Glen in Victoria B.C. In June 1960 Gibbons sold the store to Carl Drummond. The Drummonds operated the store at Kevisville until August 1962 when they moved the store building to Caroline. They have four children Bobby, Billy, Patty and Penny. Patty is married and lives in Innisfail. Carl and Penny also live in Innisfail.

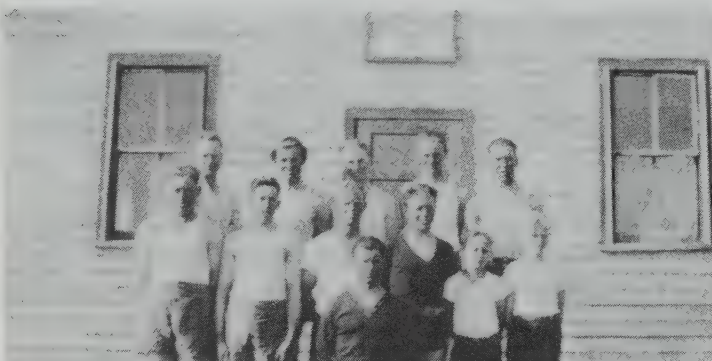
The old store was housed in a partially log building. They carried groceries — the most important staples. Much of the food stuff was in bulk e.g. — beans, coffee, rice, sugar. Cheese was in a large round with wedges cut off with a cheese cutter as required. Farmers traded eggs for groceries. Coal oil came in 45 gallon drums. When gas lamps began to be used, high test gas also came this way. The customer brought his own containers to be filled. The Kevisville store was one of the first places in the district to use gas lamps and it was a real improvement over the older coal oil ones. The post office when it was first moved to the store in 1935 occupied one small corner. That was all the room that could be spared for it. All merchandise for the store was hauled from Innisfail — a much more difficult task at that time than now with our paved highway

and well gravelled side roads. When Raymond McKain owned the store each fall he took orders for flour. The flour he had shipped into Innisfail by the car load and delivered it directly from the car at a reduced price. Customers would buy anywhere from four hundred pounds to one ton of flour, enough to last each family all winter.

CARL GUSTAV ANDERSEN

Carl Gustav Andersen was born in Denmark in 1904. He left Denmark for Canada August 5, 1927 and landed in Halifax. He worked for two years at Dafoe, Saskatchewan, then came to Alberta in the fall of 1929. He worked in the Calgary area for two years. Part of this time he worked on construction of the C.P.R. branch line to Cremona. In 1931 he came to the Red Raven district and bought the NW35-35-4-W5.

Gustav had had special training in physical culture and gymnastics in Denmark and was the leader of a group there. So, soon after he was settled in the Kevisville district he organized a group of young men into a gymnasium class. In the class were (left to right back row) Alfred Beck, Hans Jantzen, Reynold Petersen, Edgar Petersen, Soren Westergaard (Second Row) I.E. Hansen, Valdemar Nielsen, John Andersen, Axel Christiansen, Andre and Torval Nielsen with Carl Gustav Andersen as instructor. He carried on this class for about five years. At the end of each seasons practice the group would put on displays of their gymnastic abilities for the entertainment of the public. These special evenings were held in various schools including Crooked Creek, Red Raven and Dickson. The group practiced two evenings a week in Crooked Creek school.



Gymnastic Group.

In addition to the adult group, for three years Gustav carried on a class for the Crooked Creek school pupils. This was held twice a week. The teacher in charge ended formal studies early on those days. Two of these interested and co-operative teachers were Helena Gundersen (Mrs. Jens Schmidt) and Vera Haggerty. On these afternoons Gustav walked the four miles from his farm home to the school and back in order to instruct the children. These physical culture sessions were a real treat, avidly looked forward to and much enjoyed by the pupils. One of those pupils Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Larsen was later to become Mrs. Carl Gustav Andersen.

Gustav and Mary were married January 23, 1944 in Crooked Creek school. Their bridal shower was held at the home of Marcus Johnsen. They have one son Marvin. Marvin attended school at Crooked Creek, Dickson and Spruce View. During his time at Spruce View he spent two years in the Air Cadets. Shortly after completing high school he joined the air force and is now stationed at Ottawa.

Mary and Carl Gustav Andersen have lived on their farm since their marriage. They enjoy their garden and have many lovely flowers. They celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with a family dinner and were honored by a community gathering in January of 1969. Mary passed away suddenly in March 1971.

CARL JOHAN ANDERSEN by Kathrine Andersen

Carl Johan Andersen was born in Denmark April 19, 1903. He came to Canada in April 1925, spent some time in Winnipeg as a construction worker, later worked a few years as a coal miner around Estevan, Saskatchewan. He came to Calgary in September 1929. In 1932 he bought a quarter section of CPR land in Kevisville district, NE15-35-4-W5.

I, Kathrine Lyngaae, was born in Denmark March 2, 1907. I came to Canada on the S.S. Marlock in September 1927. Spent a year in Winnipeg and about a year in Estevan, Sask. I arrived in Calgary in July 1929. We were married in Calgary October 25, 1933 and came to Kevisville to live. We have been members of the Kevisville Credit Union since it was started in 1948 and Carl has acted as an officer most of that time. I was a member of the Danish Lutheran Ladies Aid and served as secretary for a number of years, also attended the English Ladies Aid for a short time. I belong to the Kevisville Hobby Club and have been a member since it started as an agricultural club in 1939.

We had three sons and one daughter. They all went to school at Red Raven and Rich Hill schools and later at Spruce View. They each belonged to the Kevisville 4-H calf club for several years, at different times as they grew up.

Clifford married Ellen Moheim November 1, 1959. They have four children. Clifford is a mechanic and works in Innisfail but they live in Spruce View.

Henning married Betty Lundberg October 14, 1967. He was a truck driver for several years, now works for a gravel crushing outfit as a welder. They live in Red Deer.

Allan married Louise Berry January 7, 1964. There are two children in their marriage. Allan worked at the Alberta School Hospital. He died October 31, 1965 at the age of 22.

Irene Marie was born in 1946. Since her graduation from high school she has been employed by the Royal Bank, first in Innisfail for two years, later in Calgary. On April 18, 1970 Irene married Kenneth Wyllie. They live in Calgary.

CECIL ANDREWS FAMILY by May Andrews

My husband, Cecil Andrews was born in England. My father, "Dad" Davies and I were born in Wales.

Cecil and I were married in Wales and our two oldest children, Minnie and Ron were born there. We came to Canada on the "Arabic" in May, of 1929. We tried to settle near Munson, Alberta and bought a quarter section on share basis. The first crop was hailed out 100%, the second year was dried out and the third year there was a fifty bushel an acre crop, but the price was 17c a bushel. So after much thought my husband and father and a friend, Morris Robb, hit the trail from Munson with a team of horses and wagon. Poor horses, it was wonderful they made the trip to Kevisville at all.

By the men's account of it they had lots of fun along with the hardships, and finally made it, to settle two miles west and one half mile north of the Red Raven School. Now this was to be home, so they got busy, cut logs, built a house, chicken house, and a barn also from logs. They hauled the logs to the local sawmill to get boards for house, roof and floor. The mill owner took half of the logs as payment for sawing. They couldn't afford to buy shingles or windows at that time, so came back to Munson to get the family.

Our second son, George was born while we lived at Munson. When we finally made it to Kevisville, all kit and kaboodle, we had \$2.45 in money, three cows, three calves and twenty-five chickens, but we had a wonderful father and a wonderful husband.

Yes, we had hard times but so did everyone who was trying to settle. Before we could get the shingles for the house we had to put a tarpaulin up over the table so we could at least eat under cover, and not have the rain watering the gravy, because it rained, I can tell you, continually! We had to take turns in darting to the stove for the teapot. Anyway all of these things helped to stiffen our backbones.

We grew to love Canada and the many friends we had in Kevisville were very precious to us. So we plodded on with lots of ups and downs. My "Dad Davies" started a choir in the Red Raven School house where we held church, school, young peoples, socials, everything in general. The choir went great guns. Mrs. J. McKain was the organist. We took concerts to Heckla, Moose Mountain Hall (had to ford the river to get there) and to Dickson Church. We did enjoy it. It seemed we could take it all with a smile.

In those days we used to visit our neighbors with team and sled, with hot rocks in the box and blankets to keep us warm in -30 degree weather. The Christmas concerts etc., oh, I'm telling you, there was a lot to be thankful for in good old Kevisville. I can't begin to fill in everything, it was part of our life you know. So I have only touched the edge so to speak. During those years our youngest son Bill was born. We lived for a time, just west of Dickson. While we were there my "Dad Davies" organized and led a Fife Band.

When we purchased a quarter section of land three-quarters of a mile north of Red Raven School, from Charles Baynham we returned to Kevisville and were there until we moved to Ralston in 1947, where my husband worked for the government.

A lot of the old timers have left us now. My father passed away in 1955 and we have retired in Victoria B.C. Our daughter Minnie, passed away in 1964, but we are blessed; George and Bill are now married, so we have nine grandchildren and a lot of good and happy memories of Kevisville. (Cecil Andrews passed away in 1970.)

HARRY ATTWELL

Harry Attwell was born in Nova Scotia. In 1910, he came to Calgary. He went to British Columbia but returned to Alberta in 1916. He lived in various areas of Alberta but most of the time around Beynon. In 1949, he bought the old "Krusell" place from Lawrence Jensen and moved to Kevisville. Since then he has farmed and raised cattle.

THE BAILEY FAMILY

The Bailey family were some of the earliest settlers in the Kevisville district. They were here before 1907, possibly as early as 1902 or 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Bailey Sr. had three sons: Charles Jr., Albert and Will and a daughter Liza (Elizabeth). Charles Jr. was married and had children and Liza had married Dan Davis before they came west from the Ottawa area. The three families settled on adjoining homesteads east of where Red Raven School was later built. Dan Davis chose the quarter Cecil McKain now lives on. Chas. Bailey settled on the quarter immediately north of the Davis home (now also part of Cecil McKain farm). Chas. Bailey Jr. built his small log house on the quarter east of his parents land. Will Bailey married Lizzie Clark and settled on the quarter west of the Steve Benson homestead. Will and Lizzie Bailey had one daughter, Dorothy. Albert Bailey owned what is now Cecil McKain's east quarter. He lived at home and also farmed his parent's land. Albert went overseas in the First World War. After he returned he married Lizzie Thompson and lived near Bowden. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Bailey Sr. were deeply religious people. Sunday was strictly observed as a day of rest and worship. Plentiful supplies of wood were cut and wood and water brought into the house Saturday for Sunday use. There was no Sunday hunting or fishing for the family. Mrs. Bailey refused to eat any fish caught on a Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Bailey Sr. are buried in the Dickson cemetery.



Chas. Bailey threshing outfit — 1913. L. to R.: Chas. Bailey, Mel Bancroft, 7, Hein Heinsen (small boys, Martin and Ray Heinsen), Chas. Baynham, Stanley Stigings, Nels Nelson, Albert Bailey, Lawrence Jensen.

CHARLES BAILEY JR.

The Charles Bailey Jr. family were: Will, now living in Calgary, Helen (Nellie) is Mrs. Wm. Bannerman. She lived at Bowden but is now at N. Surrey, B.C. Art died young. Clarence and Harold married Price sisters and both live at Bowden. Leonard is in Kamloops, B.C. The twins Jessie and Cecil - Jessie (Mrs. Price) also married into the Price family and lives in N. Surrey, B.C. Muriel, the youngest member of the family is Mrs. Tom Quinn and lives in the White Creek district. Muriel was a very small girl when her family left this district about 1916 and moved to Bowden.

The Bailey families brought some machinery with them when they came from Ottawa. They had a steam threshing outfit (gas tractors were unheard of) Charles Jr. was a steam engineer. At that time it was all stook threshing. The Baileys threshed quite a distance from home in all directions but especially east. Albert ran the separator. In the winter they sawed lumber. Will Sr. was a sawyer. They did little farming as they did not have much land under cultivation. Albert had more cleared land than other members of the family.

Agnes Dobson nee Westergaard, now in her mid seventies, has vivid memories of when, as a girl of eighteen she first worked away from home. She was hired for ten dollars a month to help Mrs. Chas. Bailey Jr. who was expecting her ninth child. Agnes remembers making maple syrup with Mapeline. This was a staple sweet in the Bailey home. No doubt it was the best available substitute for the maple syrup they had enjoyed in Ontario. Water was a problem. It all had to be carried from a spring some distance from the house. Bath nights and wash days were especially taxing times. The house was small, one room with a loft overhead where the older children slept and a little lean-to for the main bedroom. Agnes' room was her bed in a corner with a sheet hung in front of it. The twins, just two years old slept on a small bed also in the living room. Mrs. Bailey was a lovely person and Agnes enjoyed helping her. Charles Bailey was not home much as he was working at a saw mill on Moose Mountain.

When the birth seemed imminent someone went for Dell Benson as she often served as midwife. She felt it necessary to also have the doctor, so Dr. Wagner was called. Only doctors had cars and Dr. Wagner came in his. He brought with him Dr. Turner who was visiting him at the time. Agnes remembers having to stand out by the road with a lantern to wait for them. When they arrived they found it had been a false alarm. They decided to stay and await the baby. They were there a week. For the doctors it was a real holiday. For Agnes it meant plenty of work but there were some bright spots too. The small house fairly bulged at the seams for it now held eight children, Mrs. Bailey, two doctors, Dell Benson and Agnes. There was all the wood to chop, water to carry, the children to get ready for school and the cooking and baking to do - ten big loaves of bread to bake every two days. The doctors really relished that fresh

homemade bread. They helped Agnes bring in the wood and water and made themselves generally useful. Sleeping space was a problem. The doctors sat up in chairs or in the car at night. Sometimes during the day when the twins small bed was empty they would lie down on it. Agnes remembers being much amused to see their legs hanging out over the foot of the bed. Dr. Wagner's Ford had a great deal of brass on it. The doctors went off for a visit one afternoon and came back with a muddy car. Dr. Wagner made a deal with Agnes. If she would help clean up the car he would take her for a ride. Agnes used vinegar and salt to polish the brass. Dr. Wagner took her for a ride to Dickson. The road was terrible, they lost the spare tire and had no end of trouble. This made no difference to Agnes. She was really travelling in style. She was much too high in the world to be looking at anyone common that day. Later Dr. Wagner sent Agnes a card saying the next trip they took together would be by plane.

ALFRED BAYNHAM

Alfred Baynham and Minnie Allen were married in Ottawa about 1890. Their sons John, Charles and Allen were born there. The youngest member of the family, a little daughter, died while still a small girl. The Baynham family were friends of the Baileys and Dan Davis' in Ottawa. They undoubtedly kept in touch after the latter moved to the Red Raven district. So when the Baynhams also decided to come west they took up a homestead NW17-35-3-5 adjoining that of Dan Davis.

Minnie Baynham and her three sons arrived in Bowden in the spring of 1909. They came out to their new home by livery team and crossed the Red Deer River at the ford close to the mouth of the Raven River. They spent the summer at the home of Dan Davis while the log home on their own place was built. Charlie Bailey was the carpenter, assisted by John Baynham and the neighbors.

Alfred Baynham, a painter and paper hanger by trade, joined the family some months after their arrival here. He worked in Calgary for a time but the family remained on the homestead. The family household effects were shipped from Ottawa and arrived in Bowden during the summer. Mr. Arthur Mynott brought them out from there by ox team.

Minnie Baynham was a sincere Christian and did all she could to further Christian endeavor in the district. The Methodist minister who visited the community at regular intervals made the Baynham home his headquarters. Services were held in the old log school. Minnie Baynham was superintendent of the Sunday School. She had a beautiful singing voice and used it freely in her church work. Alfred Baynham spent much of his time in Innisfail following his trade of painter. Many is the time he walked from Innisfail to the homestead and back to Innisfail in order to spend time with his family. Sometimes he was lucky enough to catch a ride but more often he walked the twenty miles between home and town. Winter was the slack season in the painting trade so he could then be at home more. The winter the Moose Mountain



The Baynham — L. to R.: Alfred, Grandpa Allen, Charles, Allen, Minnie, Eva and Jack Hedges, and John.

bridge was built he worked as a pile driver on bridge construction. He was a Mason and an Oddfellow. For him regular attendance at lodge meetings was a must.

Clearing the place was a slow process as all land had to be cleared with axe and grub hoe. The other common implement was the pitch fork and most crops were handled with it's help. There was no tame hay grown so grass was cut in the sloughs for winter feed. All fences were rail and buildings were log. The Baynham home consisted of two small rooms in the main part with a lean-to making a third. There were no road allowances or graded roads. Roads consisted of trails which as far as possible followed the ridges of high land from one farmstead to the next. Each family fenced only a small area close to their buildings. A garden was an important part of the homestead but the number of vegetables grown was limited. Corn, cucumbers and other tender crops were impossible to raise and one was fortunate to get a crop of potatoes as the vines were so often ruined by frost. Cash was hard to come by. In winter there was some work to be had on sawmills but wages hovered around only about one dollar a day and a ten dollar bill was a great deal of money.

The streams abounded with grayling, trout and pike. Bush partridge afforded many a choice meal. Berries such as, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, cranberries, saskatoons, and chokecherries were plentiful. Mushrooms, especially the tasty morrel were easily obtainable in season. There were some deer but they were not as common as in more recent times. Moose were a rarity and elk unheard of.

After the outbreak of World War one John Baynham enlisted in the 187th Battalion. He took his early training in Innisfail and completed it in Calgary. He went overseas early in the war. He died in France of wounds received in action in 1917. Late in the war Charles was conscripted and was in an Ontario training camp when war ended.

The rigorous pioneer life on the homestead proved too much for Minnie Baynham and her health suffered. So Alfred took his wife and youngest son Allen into Innisfail to live, where Allen attended Innisfail school. Charles stayed on the farm. Minnie Baynham's health did not improve so the family returned to the farm. In 1917 when word came that John had been killed in action Minnie was seriously ill in the Innisfail hospital. Charles and Allen were alone on the homestead. Minnie Baynham never recovered from the loss of her eldest son and passed away soon afterwards. Mr. Lorenzen had one of the very few phones in the area so he brought news of

John's death to his brothers. Alfred Baynham continued to spend much of his time working in Innisfail while the boys looked after the farm. He passed away suddenly in 1927.

CHARLES BAYNHAM

Charles Baynham was married in November, 1920 to Hazel Lee. They made their home in this district for over twenty years, then moved first to White Rock and later to a farm near Salmon Arm, B.C. where they still reside. Ben Lee, Hazel's brother, makes his home with them. Charlie and Hazel are both musical and they make good use of this ability in their church work. They have one daughter, Ellice Lorine. Ellice married Malcolm Graham. They have three children, Loretha and twins Dari and Devon. The Grahams have recently completed a six year term as missionary teachers in Rwanda, Africa. They now live in Calgary.

ALLEN BAYNHAM

Allen Baynham bought his brothers share of the Baynham homestead about 1930 and continues to farm it. Allen and his future wife met when, in 1937, she came to teach Red Raven school. Ena Herman was born in St. Marys, Ontario and came with her parents to Calgary as a very young child. Later the family moved to Cluny where Ena attended school. Allen and Ena were married in December of 1940 at Gleichen. They have lived on the Baynham farm since that time. They have been active in various community organizations and have served as officers of Kevisville Credit Union for over twenty years.

STEVE BENSON FAMILY

Steve Benson was born in Vermont, U.S.A. in 1859. Twin sisters Scynthia Dell Long and Lily Bell Long were born November 8, 1863 in Illinois, U.S.A. In 1882 Steve Benson and Scynthia Dell Long were married. The same year Lily Bell Long married Nelson R. Lee. Both families moved to the Kevisville district in the early 1900's to be followed before long by the twin's youngest sister and her husband Mr. and Mrs. Jay McKain and their family.

The Steve Benson family lived in several states including Nebraska, Washington, and Oregon before coming to Alberta. It was a cold miserable October 17, 1905 when the Bensons arrived in Innisfail. Tom, a young man at the time, was thoroughly disgusted with the country. If he had had his way he would have taken the next train back. The family spent the first winter east of Innisfail and then came to the Red Raven district. Steve Benson was renowned as a blacksmith and built a sturdy log shop which still stands today. Many of the horses in the area were brought to his shop to be shod.

He was an outstanding member of the community, was road boss, owned the first gang plow and one of the earliest cars. He raised few but good horses. The last three disappeared from the pasture. No one knew what became of them but there was some horse stealing about this time. "Aunt Dell", as Mrs. Steve Benson was widely known, was also a valued member of the community. She helped neighbors in times of sickness and served many times as midwife.

In the early years Crooked Creek was full of fish — many grayling (Arctic whitefish) some bull trout and suckers. The country abounded in prairie chicken, partridge and rabbits and these furnished much of the meat for the settlers. Tom remembered one winter when stooks left in the field were literally covered with prairie chickens. Deer were not common. Today they are much more plentiful. All fences were rail and only small areas fenced.

Steve and Dell Benson's family were Tom, Earl, Oakey, Elnora, Arthur, Bertha, Audrey and Lillian. Elnora never lived here. Steve Benson filed on the quarter now owned by Morris Robb. His younger brother Ralph who came somewhat later than Steve, chose a quarter a short distance south west of Steve's home. Ralph lived for many years in this area. He was married and had one daughter, Vivien. Vivien visited him but his wife and daughter never lived here. Steve Benson's sons all took up homesteads in the surrounding district; Oak where Clarence Miller now lives, Earl on land in Crooked Creek district now owned by Orville Willis and Arthur on what is now Holiday Ranch.

Earl never married, much of the time he made his home with his parents. He was most versatile. He was a good sawyer and an excellent camp cook. He even tried door to door selling when he had a Rawleigh route in northern B.C. He passed away in 1941. Arthur did not stay long in the district. He worked in the Ogden shops. He married and has three children. Bertha married Henry Schrader. They have seven children, Neva, Raymond, Elva, Wilbur, Denny, Norma and Dorsey. Later Bertha married Maurice Cheston. They have one son Billy. They live in the Cottonwood district. Audrey married Lester Johnson. They have one son Alvin. Alvin married Beryl Reid. They have three girls and a boy. Lester and Audrey lived in the Rich Hill district for a number of years. Lester and Alvin farmed together there for a time. When Lester, Audrey, Alvin and Beryl moved first to Ta-Ta Creek, B.C. and then to a farm across the Red Deer river near Olds, they sold their holdings in this area to Don McMurty. Lillian married Ralph Cave and had two daughters, Olive (Mrs. Oppen) and Delphine (Mrs. Martin). Later Lillian married Garnet Gardener and they have three children; Billy, John and Norma. Garnet and Lillian live at Westbank, B.C. Steve Benson died in 1935 and "Aunt Dell" in 1940.

TOM BENSON

Tom Benson filed on the quarter section which later Lester McKain called home. Tom Benson and Margaret Kevis were married in 1913. Their family are Tom, Allan, Greta, Ray and June.

When Oak Benson left the community to return to the United States, Tom and Maggie sold their place to Lester McKain and moved onto Oak's homestead. Bowden was the town where most settlers went for groceries. One family would make the trip and bring groceries for all the neighbors. A trip to Innisfail took two days. Tom and Maggie remembered especially well the trip they made with Lester

McKain to Innisfail when the latter bought their land. They camped outside Innisfail overnight. It rained so hard that water came in under the tent and the men had to get up during the night to ditch around it. Next day the trail was so tough the men walked home to save the horses. Tom wanted some fresh meat so he caught and fried a gopher. Tom remembered the time he had a new scythe of which he was very proud. His father and uncle, Steve and Ralph, took the scythe out to cut hay on what is now Martin Larsen's land. Finished for the day they left it hanging in a tree. When they returned to use it again they could not find it. Tom was thoroughly provoked at his loss.

Moose Mountain post office was situated straight east of the Red Raven district across the Red Deer river. For a time residents of this area received their mail there. The name was changed when it was confused with Rocky Mountain House.

Miss Gokey was an eccentric Englishwoman who came to teach Red Raven school and board with the Bensons. It was during her term of teaching in 1916 that the old log school burned down. She came out of the burning building with the Union Jack draped about her. She had saved what, to her, was the most important thing in the school — the flag. Margaret Benson remembered another incident concerning Miss Gokey. Lillian Benson offered to give the teacher a horseback ride across the creek to her boarding place. The latter, unfamiliar with horses, got on the horse facing backwards. Half way across the stream, Miss Gokey slid over the tail of the horse into the creek. She simply got up and walked out much to the amusement of the young people present. At that time, when there were any, all bridges were pole bridges.

Tom and Margaret Benson's son Tom married Helen Gardner and they have three children, Charles, Shirley and Don. Later Tom married Dot Winters. They live in Red Deer. Greta married Ted Bioletti. They have a son, Teddy, and a daughter, Lyla. They live in Caroline. Raymond married Elizabeth Keim. They have three children, Carol, Kathy and Earl and live in Vancouver.

About 1947, Tom and Maggie purchased what is now Holiday Ranch from Charles Baynham and lived on it until about 1960 when they bought the Red Raven teacherage and moved to the Kevisville corner.

June married Clarence Miller. They have two daughters, Faye and Debora. Their only son, Gerald, was killed in a tractor accident. They have the land in the Raven District formerly owned by June's parents.

Both Tom and Maggie enjoyed fishing. Until their health no longer permitted it they were often seen along the creeks and rivers of the district. Maggie was an avid gardener with a real knack with plants. Her garden was an outstanding one. She was generous with her plants and many of her gardening friends benefited from her thoughtfulness. The Bensons celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1963 with a gathering of family, friends, and neighbors in the Red

Raven school. Tom Benson passed away in the spring of 1970 and his wife Margaret a few weeks later.

ALLAN BENSON

Allan Benson and Meta Andersen were married in May of 1940. They grew up in the Kevisville area and continue to live here. They both enjoy outdoor recreation. Allan, more commonly known by the nickname "Buster" is an ardent fisherman and also hunts. He is at present an officer in the Kevisville Credit Union and a member of the Board of the Kevisville Community Church and Centre. Allan and Meta have one son Wesley. Wesley married Louise Andersen nee Berry. They have four children Kathy and Deon (Louise's daughter and son from her first marriage) and Linda and Wesley Jr. They live at Rocky Mountain House.

AARON BERTELSEN

Aaron Bertelsen was born in Spencer, Iowa, U.S.A. on July 25, 1903. His parents were born in Denmark, and came to America as young people. Martin Bertelsen first went to New Brunswick, then to the States. Anna Bertelsen emigrated to Chicago where they became acquainted and were later married. They lived in Chicago for a few years, then in Tennessee for a couple of years, before moving to Spencer. In September 1911, the family moved to Canada. The oldest daughter Catherine remained in the U.S.A. The other children Mary, Emma, Charlie, Aaron, Nina and Lilly came with their parents. The family came by train to Innisfail and first lived in Dickson.

On arrival, the first few days were spent in the parsonage with Rev. and Mrs. Magnussen, then a few days at the senior Adamsen home. They moved out to the Herby Westergaard homestead (now Howard Shannons). They only stayed there a few days, as the house was too cold. Then they moved into a small house on the farm now owned by M. Jurasovitch. The SE17-35-3-W5 in the Kevisville area was acquired as a homestead. When a house was built the family moved out in May 1913. Aaron and his brother and sisters attended school in Dickson, and after coming to the homestead, at Red Raven School.

Roads were bad, non-existent in places, and progress in land clearing was slow. Dickson and Red Raven were the closest stores and the Kevisville post office was at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Kevis. Cream was hauled to Markerville. A bridge had been built over the Red Deer River right by the homestead but this was washed out in 1915.

Another son, John, was born on the homestead and died in 1924. Both Martin Bertelsen and his daughter Nina died in 1929. His wife who later married H.P. Jorgensen died in 1942. All are buried in the Kevisville cemetery.

Aaron was married in Innisfail in 1931. His wife, formerly Mildred Benson was born in Madoc, Ontario in 1910. She moved with her parents to Coronation, Alberta in 1913. She came to the Kevisville area in September 1930 to teach the Red Raven School. Aaron and his wife belong to the Lutheran Church. For a few years he was President of

the Kevisville Church Council and superintendent of the Sunday School. There are five children in the family, Ilene, Elsie, Neil, Brian and Joan. Ilene now lives in Vancouver, and Elsie in Portland Oregon. There is one grandchild in Portland.

The Bertelsen farm now consists of three quarters, the original homestead, and W1/2-35-3-W5. The farm buildings are across the road from the homestead site, where the old house still stands. The Lundgrens, Baynhams and Andersen's were the closest neighbours in the homestead days and are still in the area. During Aaron's first few years of farming he rented land at different times, in addition to farming on his own. Among these were the Charlie Roberts' place (now David Jackson's), the Kevis place (now Martin Pedersen's) and the Nairn farm (now belonging to the Lundgrens). Gradually more land was brought into production at home and renting was unnecessary.

Brian married Lillian Matheson. They have two children, Teresa and Gregory. Joan married Eric Barnes. They have one son and live in Leduc. Aaron passed away suddenly in the spring of 1972. Brian has taken over the farm and Mildred lives in Innisfail.

CHAS. BRADLEY

Charles Bradley and brother P.J. Bradley, along with the two Rafferty girls, Annie and Nellie, left the village of Desertmartint Co. Derry, Northern Ireland, May 28, 1928 for Western Canada. The girls went to Calgary. My brother and I came to Grassy Lake. Annie and I were married 1928. Betty, Jim, and Nellie were born there.

We came to the Kevisville district in 1939, taking up C.P.R. land on the brush contract. In 1940 I went south for spring work. I got a ride with the Browns who were going to Turner Valley for gas. A wet spring, roads were bogholes. We left in the morning Browns picked up hogs, everyone had to bring them out to the road. Jim and Jack Smith both came out and stayed with us. We pulled into a bachelors place at eleven P.M. He got out of bed and turned his pigs out, so our load of hogs was unloaded and fed. We got a bite to eat, the first in that long day. The next day we got stuck again before getting to Bowden.

I got a ride with the truck to Turner Valley turn off. Carrying two suitcases I walked all night arriving at 5 A.M.

In the fall which was as bad as the spring, I was going out with Niels Jensen, he was driving one of Laurence's trucks, Herman driving the other one and we spent all day getting out of Kevisville. Herman was ahead of Niels by some two hours, Herman had upset on a curve at Paulson's. They had the load and truck in Paulson's yard, when we came along in the dark, and upset in the same place. I was on top of Niels, the hogs were scattered all over the place. Next day we spent hours getting loaded and ready to go again. Leo Olesen was wonderful with the help he gave in getting those trucks pulled back on to the road again, he was so cheerful about it all.

Since that time there has been a lot of change in this country, in the roads, and the land clearing. One of the happy events was the visit of my sisters who came out in 1965 from the old sod.

Calgary Power was another improvement in here and now the phone. We are only three miles from hard top road. The family are married and nine grandchildren have been added to the list. Our Silver wedding party was held in Gwendale Hall, our 35th Anniversary was spoiled by the assassination of President Kennedy. I have followed his career with pride, the grandson of an Irish immigrant, President of U.S.A. We had our 40th anniversary in 1968, at home, in the house we had moved from Calgary some three years before. A long standing wish came true when Annie and I took a trip back to Ireland for a visit.

Nellie married Edward Kraff and lives at Forest Grove, B.C. and has 2 children. Betty married John Olson and they live in the district as does our son Jim.

J.P. BRADLEY

Jim started working out when he was 14. In 1952 he worked for Layden Construction in the Whitecourt area where he met his wife Opal Baxter. In 1957 Jim started with Wire-Line from Devon and in 1968 he bought the truck and is in business for himself. Jim owns land in the Crooked Creek district. He and his dad farm together.

Jim and Opal were married at Whitecourt. They have two children Ronald and Brian. In order that Ronald might have the advantage of special school facilities in Innisfail the family moved to Markerville. Jim is a charter member of Kevisville Credit Union, and has been Vice-President for a number of years. He is also a member of the Gwendale Hall board. Opal served as sec. treas. for a time.

Jim recalls many highlights of his early years in this district:

"In the first years we had no fences and the chore of keeping Carl Morkeberg and his creamery happy was a big one. He will never know the miles I walked or the hours spent trying to find a few milk cows. After locating them there was the job of separating them from those of our neighbour's, Martin Carleson's little herd.

In those days supplies were a bit of a problem as the nearest store, Kevisville, was some seven miles away. So, fifteen families organized a mail and supply route with headquarters at Marcus Johnsons. All grocery lists were left at his place and picked up Saturday morning by the one making the trip to Raymond McKain's store at Kevisville. It was Marcus' job to keep the grocery orders straight and sort the bundle of mail. I recall making one of those trips for dad in the middle of winter when it was cold. Mom must have been tougher than I was, for she did most of the driving and I did most of the walking.

When Marcus Johnsen passed away Marius Nielsen took over. As farmers gradually got cars the route was dropped in 1946 or 1947."

Opal Bradley is now postmistress at Markerville.

EMIL B. BROWN FAMILY

Emil B. Brown was born in 1884 near Dresden Germany. Hedwig Heibener was born in 1893, at Stendal. They were married in 1911 at Sanne, Germany. They came to Canada on the "Willehad" and landed in Quebec in 1913. They went to Toronto where they stayed for a time. They came west in 1915, and worked on a farm near Bassano.

In April 1918, they purchased the R. Jay McKain homestead, SE30-35-4-5 and moved here with their young son, Courtney.

The Crooked Creek school was built in 1911. It ran for a few years and then was closed as there were not enough pupils. It was re-opened in 1921. Emil Brown served as secretary for the school for a number of years and was also on the Hospital Board. He took an active part in the local agricultural society. Mrs. Brown does beautiful handwork especially tatting and knitting. Emil Brown passed away in 1950. They have three sons.

Courtney was born in Toronto. In 1942, he married Bertha Vessey who came from Calgary to teach at Crooked Creek school. They have three sons, Bernhardt, Stewart, and Dennis and one daughter, Dianne. Courtney farms, and broke a great deal of the land nearby. Harold, the second son, also farms. He and his mother make their home together. Victor, the youngest son went into accounting and moved to Eastern Canada.

Courtney and Harold Brown work together to farm their considerable holdings. The two farmsteads are situated a short distance east of the original homestead. Both Courtney and Harold are avid fishermen.

COLIN BROWNLEE

Colin Brownlee was born in 1878 at Arnprior, near Ottawa, Ontario. He came west to Victoria, B.C., worked in the logging for a year and in 1903 came to this district. In 1905 he married Mary Dolphin and they homesteaded the farm now owned by John Olson. They lived there until 1923 when they sold to Eldon Holroyd. They purchased Abe Scarf's homestead but left it to live in the Edmonton area for a couple of years, then returned to the Red Raven district.



Colin Brownlee family — L. to R.: Bill Miller, Annie, Angus, Billy, Colin, Margaret, Mary, Patsy, Rose, three friends, Charlie Byer and Jim.

Colin and Mary had nine children, Angus, Jim, Bruce, John, Rose, Margaret, Annie, William and Patricia. The children attended Raven and Red Raven schools. In the early days neighbors remember several occasions when Colin walked home from the store at Raven packing a hundred pound sack of flour on his back. In 1930 or 31 Mary was alone with Billy as a baby when fire swept over large portions of the district. Brownlees lost all their buildings but the house and were only able to save it by throwing water on it.

Bruce married Josie Clemens from Pine Lake. They lived on a farm in this area but now reside in Innisfail. They have seven children. John lost his life by accident in 1950. Rose married Lester Redford. They have six children and live in Edmonton. Their eldest son Ernie married Connie Bull of Sundre. They returned to farm for a time in this district. They have four children and live in the Red Deer area. Margaret Brownlee married William Berry. They have four children and live in Red Deer. Patricia married Stewart McNally. They have three daughters and live in the Stauffer area. Patsy teaches at Caroline. Colin passed away in 1953 and Mary in 1969.

ANGUS BROWNLEE

Angus, son of Colin Brownlee grew up here and attended Red Raven and North Raven schools. In 1936 he married Mary Copeland from Cottonwood. They lived all their married life on their farm in the Red Raven district. Angus and Mary have five sons and five daughters. At various times the children attended Red Raven, Rich Hill, Dickson and Spruce View schools. Marlene was the only member of the family to complete grade XII here. She graduated from Spruce View the 64-65 class. The children attended Sunday School at Kevisville. Angus had a portable sawmill. With the help of his older sons he also did considerable custom work of clearing, cultivating land and combining crops for other area farmers. Mary was a member of the Kevisville L.C.W.

Alberta Brownlee married Peter Reberger. They farm in the Cottonwood district and have two sons and two daughters. Their girls play in the Innisfail school band. Robert has taken over his father's farm. In 1963 he married Josephine Fosier of Caroline. Robert and Jo have four daughters, Katherine, Roxanne, Stephanie and Maxine. Norman married Nelsie McIntyre of Sundre in 1960. They lived in this area for a time but are now at Merville, B.C. Nellie is now Mrs. John Boehler. She is an American citizen with her residence in Anchorage, Alaska. Nellie had a son and a daughter by a previous marriage to Larry Harvey. Kenneth was drowned in 1970. Karen is with her father in Anchorage. Gordon married Patricia Alspach (A Spruce View school teacher) in 1968. They have one son and live in Red Deer. Patricia teaches at River Glen school. Gordon has gone back to school to complete his education and is at present attending University. Clara Walder has two children and lives in Calgary. Harold married Joyce Grey in 1968. They have two sons and have taken up a

homestead at Rycroft, Alberta. Marlene married Calvin Powell in 1967. They have two daughters and live in Victoria B.C. Marlene is a telephone operator. Barbara married Ken Schockenmaier in 1968. They have one son and live at Duncan, B.C. Alec has just completed grade twelve at Merville, B.C.

Mary Brownlee passed away in August, 1967. Angus moved to B.C. In 1969 he married Elizabeth Adamschek and they reside at Merville, B.C.

JIM BROWNLEE

Jim, son of Colin Brownlee homesteaded the SE-34-35-3-4. Frances Byer was born in Grouard and lived in various other parts of Alberta. Jim and Frances were married in 1938 and lived on Jim's homestead until 1949. Their three oldest sons Lloyd, Raymond and Gary were born during this time. The year following their marriage Jim and Francis enjoyed a delayed honeymoon in the form of a horse-back trip to visit Francis' parents at Hoadley. One spring during lambing time, Brownlee's had 20 ewes with lambs, 50 chickens and some geese in an out-building with a stove to keep them warm. Early one morning they looked out the bedroom window to see smoke pouring from the building and the inside a sheet of flames. Nothing was saved but one lamb they had been feeding in the house. They raised it as a pet.

When Lloyd had attended Red Raven school for two years and Raymond for one the family decided it was too far for the boys to ride to school. They moved to Red Deer on the last day of school and so missed a much anticipated event - the school picnic. They built a home in Red Deer and moved into it before it was finished. Francis and Jim left Jim's brother, Johnny to bake the bread and shingle the roof while they drove out to the farm from Red Deer with a wagon and small tractor for a load of lumber - (over a five hour trip). They were heavily loaded, it was dark and they were tired and sleepy, anxious to be home and travelling fast. When they came unexpectedly to the hill west of Penhold Francis was driving. On the hill with the outfit picking up speed and the load pushing them Francis was terrified. Jim said, "Hold it steady and stay on the road. If it jackknifes we have had it!" Finally they were safely at the bottom of the hill very wide awake. It was long after midnight when they reached Red Deer.

The Brownlee's had three more children: Elain, John and Linda after they moved to Red Deer. Jim worked for the C.P.R. He died in Whitehall, Montana while taking treatment there in 1959. A long standing wish came true for Francis when in 1967 John won an all-expense plane trip to Expo for a week for himself and his mother.

The four Brownlee boys are now in Edmonton, the girls are in Red Deer. Francis kept the farm until a few years ago when she sold to David Laird.

WILLIAM BROWNLEE

William Brownlee took over his parents farm SW24-35-4-5. On November 10, 1960 he married Gladys Oust from Riviere Qui Barre, northwest of Edmonton. They have four children, twins Colin and

Colleen and Keith and Laverne. In addition to his farm work, Bill drove a Spruce View School bus for seven years and also did considerable custom baling. Bill and Gladys now live in Victoria, B.C.

PETE CHRISTENSEN

Pete Christensen with his wife and twelve year old foster son, Hans Jantzen left Denmark for Alberta in 1928. Pete found it very difficult at first as he couldn't speak or understand the English language. Fortunately his wife could speak some. He first worked in Calgary as a brick layer. He came to the Kevisville area in 1931 to work for Mr. Shultz, at the Arrow Head Ranch, building a fire place. While employed at the ranch he bought a quarter of CPR land for twenty five dollars down payment (NW23-35-4-5).

Pete brought his wife and son and their belongings to the farm from Calgary in 1932 in a Model T car. He had forty eight dollars and a few cents in his pocket. They got stuck on the big hill north of Cliff Petersen's and had to unload all their belongings so they could push the car up the hill. Then they carried everything up the hill to reload. He had a small house ready. He bought a cow from Mr. Fredrickson for twenty five dollars. This cow soon had a calf. He also bought a hog for four dollars to butcher for meat. He traded his model T to Bruce Cressman for a team of horses and started clearing his land.

Pete and Hans eventually cleared fifty acres all with an axe and grub hoe, pulling out the stumps with horses. It was hard work and tough going. All three of them went south each summer for the first three years. Pete and Hans worked stooking and threshing, while Mrs. Christensen cooked for the gangs of men. This was the only way that they could get enough money to live through the winter.

Pete's wife died in February, 1935 and was laid to rest in the Kevisville cemetery. Pete and Hans continued on alone, working hard in those depression years, but Pete says it was not all hard work. There was lots of visiting, card parties, ball games, horse shoe tournaments and many other community and church events.

His closest neighbors were Duchesney's, who moved in the same year as Pete and lived across the road, north of his place. Rod Campbell, and family soon joined him to the east and Ernie Knott on the west.

When Hans and Zita left, Pete moved into their little house and has prospered through the years. He was a good farmer and stock man. In fact Pete was good at anything he did. His housekeeping would put many a woman to shame. He loved company and was a wonderful host.

In the forty's he went into purebred cattle, taking his bulls to Calgary and Lacombe sales each year. His bulls always rated high and one year he won the Grand Championship award.

In 1944 he once again bought a car, a Ford coupe, the first car since his Model T. Since then he has had several new ones including the one he now drives.

Pete and Hans built a lovely three bedroom house on the farm in the early fifty's. It is surrounded by a spacious lawn, hedges and fruit trees, all planted and cared for by Pete.

In 1965, Pete, in his eightieth year turned the farm over to Hans and retired to the Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail. He returned to the farm for the summer for the first two years. Now he stays in Innisfail the year round, but makes frequent visits to his old farm caring for the yard and trees and visiting his old friends.

Pete and Hans took a trip to Denmark in 1960.

THE CLARK FAMILY

The Clark family settled here about the same time as the Baileys. They homesteaded the land which later became Gerald Lanaways home quarter. Their log house served as a landmark until recent years when it was burned to make more efficient use of the field in which it stood. Mr. and Mrs. Clark had four children. George stayed on the home place but later bought land in the Bowden area. Arthur homesteaded the quarter now owned by Alvin McKain. He married Lillian Kevis and they had five children. They lived for several years on the homestead before moving to B.C. Jessie lived for a time with her parents then went to Calgary. Lizzi married Will Bailey Sr. It has been many years since any member of the Clark family lived in this district.

The Clarks probably inadvertently brought with their belongings from Ontario seed of a buttercup. Small patches of this dainty golden yellow flower first appeared on low moist ground near the Raven river on their place. It has in no sense become a weed but through the years it has spread slowly until now it is a welcome springtime sight almost a mile from its origin.

DAN DAVIS

Dan Davis had been in the N.W.M. Police. He had been decorated for escorting prisoners from one territory to another during the early troubled times in the west. In those years he earned the nickname Peachy Davis because he was so fond of peaches. A neighbor who was a boy at the time Dan Davis lived in this area remembers him telling this incident. While in the N.W.M. Police he visited an Indian camp. He stood watching a squaw cut up buffalo meat. Her papoose was by her side. The little one relieved himself all over the knife. The mother calmly wiped it off on the grass and went on cutting meat. Dan Davis married Liza Bailey while they were still in Ottawa. They homesteaded SW1/4-20-35-3-5 the quarter Cecil McKain now lives on. They had one adopted son. Dan Davis was not cut out to be a farmer. He eventually sold the place and the family moved to Calgary.

EBBESSEN FAMILY

Ebbe Peter Ebbesen was born in Denmark in 1893, and came to America in 1911. Mrs. Malew Fifiield was born in Sarnia Ontario in 1891 and came to the Olds district in 1906. Peter Ebbesen was farming in the Olds district when he met Malew Fifiield — his

future wife. They were married in 1923 at Didsbury. In 1946, the Ebbesens moved to the Kevisville district and rented a half section from Lawrence Jensen, (the present Harry Attwell farm). Peter and Malew Ebbesen had two daughters, Elsie and Opal and two sons, Carl and George. When the family moved to Kevisville the girls remained in Olds. In 1950, Peter Ebbesen purchased SE1/4-25-35-4-5 from Raymond McKain and this is their home place. Since then they have purchased several parcels of land in this district.

George Ebbesen married Jaqueline Foesier from the Caroline district in October, 1960. They have three sons, Darrell, Brian and Alan and a small daughter. Malew Ebbesen passed away in May 1966, and Peter Ebbesen in 1968. Carl and George live on the home place and continue to farm together.

FRANK FIFIELD

Frank Fifield was born in Olds. He enlisted in the Canadian Army and served five and one half years overseas. In 1942 he married Irene Perry, an English war bride. Their two daughters Hazel and Ruth were born in England. Back in Canada the family lived in the Olds district and Frank was a truck driver. In 1952 he bought a quarter section from Cecil Andrews in the Kevisville district. In Canada the family was increased by four boys — Peter, George, Jimmy and Johnny. Frank Fifield passed away in August 1955. Irene now lives in B.C.

P.L. GIBBONS

Phil Gibbons was born in New Brunswick. He travelled extensively and lived in various places in the United States and Canada. He arrived in Three Hills in 1925. Kay Bischke was born in Medicine Hat, moved with her parents to Torrington in 1921 and to Three Hills in 1926. Phil and Kay were married there, July 12, 1929. They lived first at Three Hills and later moved to a farm east of Innisfail where they farmed for a number of years. In the fall of 1951 they bought the Kevisville store from Mr. and Mrs. R. McColeman and moved to this district. They operated the store and post office until June, 1960 when poor health forced them to sell the business. During these years they served the community well. They found the people friendly and liked the area so enjoyed working in the district. They remember with pleasure the good times together when people gathered in the school, hall, etc. for community social events. Kay loved flowers and brightened the store front with showy beds of them. Phil and Kay are now retired in Innisfail. They have one son Wm. John in Calgary. He married Shirley Prosser and they have six children.

FRANK HUDSON FAMILY

The Copeland and Hudson families were long time residents of the area west of Bowden. Frank Hudson and Cletta Copeland were married in January, 1941 at Bowden. Before moving to the Kevisville district they worked for six years at Art Eskesen's saw mill west of Sundre. In 1950 they moved to the old Charlie Robert's place which Mr. Copeland had pur-

chased from Mr. Schmick the year before. In 1952, they rented Ken McIntosh's farm on the river flat east of Kevisville.

On August 27, 1954, heavy rains brought up the Red Deer River and much of the flat was flooded. Cletta writes, "We had to move our livestock out, and in the house, get as much up on blocks as possible, but one thing we forgot was the washing machine. The motor on it ran no more. We considered ourselves very fortunate. We lost only three small pigs and much of the garden. We stayed for three days with Cecil and Helen McKain in their home on higher ground. That fall we used the tractor to pull logs and debris out of the crop before it could be cut. When the crop was threshed the dust looked like black smoke."

One day when Frank was stooking, a bear visited him. Not particularly anxious for each other's company, the bear ambled off into the bush and Frank started for the house to get his gun. Frank and the bear again had an impromptu meeting when the latter came out in the trail just ahead of Frank. Frank followed the bear at a respectful distance until he was close enough for Cletta to hear him call to bring the gun. By then the bear was well along the road to the west. Frank shot, but missed.

In the spring of 1955, Frank and Cletta moved to L.T. Bioletti's half section north of the Moose Creek Ranch. They were there just long enough to put in and harvest one crop. In May of 1956, they both got jobs with the Government at the Penhold Air Base.

The Hudsons have one daughter, Rose Marie. In June of 1964, Marie married George Dean, an Air Force Military Police and left almost immediately for Germany where they were stationed for over three years. The Dean's have two sons and are at present in Winnipeg.

Frank and Cletta continued to live in Red Deer and work at Penhold Air Base until the summer of 1971, when Cletta suffered a sudden and fatal heart attack. Frank has retired due to ill health but keeps his home in Red Deer.

HANS JANTZEN

Hans Jantzen immigrated to Canada from Denmark in the middle 20s with his foster parents Mr. and Mrs. P.M. Christensen. In 1932, the family moved to the Kevisville district. They cleared their land by hand but it was impossible to make a living on the farm for several years without going out to work during intervals, such as harvest.

After Mrs. Christensen's death, Pete left the farming to Hans. In September of 1936, Hans married Zita E. McKain, daughter of Harry and Lena McKain. In 1937, Pete Christensen returned to the farm on a permanent basis and Hans and Zita moved to Calgary with the hopes of getting work in the already booming Turner Valley oil fields. From 1938 to 1945, Hans was employed by Anglo Canadian as roughneck and driller. In 1946, he was sent to South America for Asiatic Pet. Corp. - a segment of Shell Oil Co. He spent over three years in the tropics before he was transferred back to Canada. In 1950,

he joined McCullough Tool and is still with them as Divisional Manager. The Jantzens live in Edmonton and have one daughter and two sons.

In 1942, the farm was paid off by Hans who in turn made a family arrangement whereby his Foster dad, Pete Christensen would remain on the farm as long as he chose. Pete is now a guest in Autumn Glen Lodge. The farm is rented, but Hans is keenly interested in it.

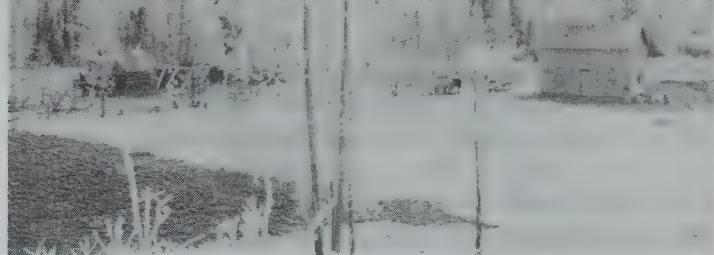
RASMUS JENSEN FAMILY

Rasmus Jensen and Karen Marie Pedersen came to the U.S.A. from Denmark as young people. They were married in Minnesota where some of their children were born. From there they moved to Carpis, North Dakota. Their first child, a girl, only lived to be ten days old. Their second, a boy, was kicked by a horse when he was 18 years old and died 5 days later. Shortly after this accident they decided to go to Canada as they had had several crop failures.

In 1909 Rasmus came to Dickson, Alberta and filed on a homestead in the Kevisville district, the farm now owned by Harry and Joyce McKain. In 1910 he brought his wife and eight children to Dickson. Some of their belongings were lost on the trip, never arriving at the Innisfail station, among them a new sewing machine and several sets of harness. So they arrived with few belongings and very little money. However they found many new friends at Dickson and Kevisville. They stayed with the Lonneberg and Adamsen families until they rented a farm two miles south and a mile west of Dickson.

In 1911 their youngest child, Herman, was born and in the fall of that year they moved onto their homestead. A two story frame house had been built to which a log kitchen was later added. The first years were very hard for the new settlers. Land had to be cleared, buildings and fences put up, money raised to buy stock and horses, as well as a living to be made. The land was plowed with a walking plow which was slow and tiring work. The seed was "broadcast" by hand, quite different from today's methods.

However the parents found time to take the children to church and Sunday School, picnics and ball games, and dances were held in the school. There were no cars and they drove for miles with a team of



Rasmus Jensen homestead — 1912.

horses hitched to a wagon. Sometimes two or three families would go together for a day of berry-picking and picnicking.

Karen and Rasmus were active members of the Kevisville Lutheran Church and Sunday School. For some years services were held in a little vacant house west of the Kevisville Cemetery; the minister came out from Dickson. Karen was a member of the Kevisville Ladies Aid and for some years was Secretary-Treasurer for the Red Raven School. She also acted as midwife on many occasions together with Mrs. Steve Benson, or alone, often staying for ten days caring for the family. She was very fond of gardening and growing flowers.

Rasmus took a great interest in farming and was very fond of his horses. He had a team of grey mares he was especially proud of. Nothing pleased him more than to "pass" the Lundgrens, Andersens or Bertelsens if they left the church services before the Jensens. Karen and the kids would hang onto the wagon in a cloud of dust. How the wheels of the vehicles never tangled, goodness knows, as the roads were narrow and usually rough.

One incident Karen, at least, felt was a catastrophe at the time, happened one day she had the Rev. Magnussen family out from Dickson to dinner. The roof on the kitchen often leaked and the water gathered on the building paper on the under side of the ceiling till it could hold no more. Then down it came in a stream. They had no dining room in those days, so "company" and all ate in the kitchen and this day it rained hard. A stream came down in the middle of the table just as Rev. Magnussen had asked the blessing. Poor Karen, to have this happen when the minister came to dinner.

The years passed quickly, the children grew up and left home to make their own way.

Charlie enlisted in the army when the first World War started. He was at the front lines till a month before Armistice when he was wounded in the shoulder. He took up Photography which he had started as a young lad. He married Effie McKenzie of Calgary. They have four children, Edith, Clifford, Gladys and Robert. They are retired now and live in Spokane, Washington.

Christine married Carl Hansen of Calgary. Carl died in 1959. Christine still lives in Calgary. They have two daughters, Alice and Joan.

Laurence married Grace Petersen. They still live in the district.

Esther married Frank Roberts of Kevisville. She died in 1938. They have one son, Gordon.



Picking cranberries. Rasmus Jensen, Andrew Hansen and House families — 1913.

Clarence married Julia Erickson of Carpis, North Dakota. He now has his own Auditing and Bookkeeping Service in Tacoma, Washington. They have one daughter, Arlene.

Flora married Vic Adams of Raven and they now live in the district.

Sine married a district boy, Harry Shannon.

Niels worked for a time at trucking in the district, and later worked at the Ogden Shops in Calgary. He has not been well for some years and is now in a rest home in Calgary. He never married.

Herman was with Laurence in the store and trucking business, and later moved to Calgary. He married Marie Bernard, and he now works in a garage. They have two sons, Clayton and Gary.

After many years on the homestead Rasmus and Karen bought the farm known as the Krussell place, across the road from their homestead. It is now owned by H. Attwell. There they had a lovely, little home with a nice garden and many flowers. They lived there till they passed away, Rasmus in June 1937 at the age of 79 years, and Karen in June 1940, at the age of 74. They are buried in the Kevisville Cemetery, and will long be remembered in the district.

LAURENCE JENSEN

Laurence Jensen took over his parents land, then bought and moved to a quarter section three miles west of Red Raven school. He had a trucking business and in 1939 opened a general store. In 1949 he married Grace, daughter of Sid Petersen of Crammond. They carried on the store business and purchased additional land. In 1972 they closed the store and retired but still keep their home in the district.

KEVIS

Charles William Kevis and Mary Ann Margaret Collins were married in India. Kevis served in the army in India where he met an officers daughter — his future wife. They lived for a time in India, then returned to England. Charles, Vincent, Ernest, Edgar and Herbert were born there. Margaret was born in Northern Saskatchewan at Salt Coats and Lillian in B.C. In 1907 the family moved to the area west of Innisfail, at that time known as Yankee Flats, then to a farm just east of Spruce View. While living there Margaret planted a small spruce close to the buildings. The tree stood until a few years ago when it was cut for a saw log. In 1909 they came to the Red Raven district to land recently owned by the late Wm. Potter. Later this house was used as a church and finally burned down. They moved just north and east to the quarter now owned by Martin Pedersen, but at that time Edgar's homestead. Water proved to be a problem as it had to be hauled from below the hill in the muskeg where there is a spring. They dug a well near the house but found no water. They dug again below the hill and got water but it had to be packed up the hill. They used a yoke to carry water. This was a sturdy piece of wood about four feet long carved to fit around a person's neck and rest on his shoulders. A pail was suspended from each end of the yoke.

At this time there were no road allowances. Instead of being straight the trail wound and twisted its way along the ridges of higher land. Even so it was not unusual when hauling heavy loads to have horses stuck in the mud. Some settlers lost all their horses with swamp fever. Then they used bulls as oxen. Margaret and Lillian rode one to get the cows. They put reins in the nose ring. Arthur Mynott and the Weavers both drove oxen. Maggie saw her first blue jay on what is now Alf Andersen's land. At that time they were very rare. Magpies were also rare. There were pocket gophers but no prairie gophers (Richardson ground squirrels) this far west. Mosquitoes were very numerous. The girls wrapped newspapers around their legs under their stockings to protect them from bites.

The Kevisville post office was opened in the Kevis home and named for the family. Barney Humphrey hauled the first mail from Markerville. Edgar Kevis hauled mail for years but left the community about 1925. Ella Norgaard then was mail carrier for a number of years and Bob Featherstone hauled both cream and mail. In 1936 Mr. Kevis passed away and the post office was moved to the Kevisville store. Mrs. Kevis moved to New Westminster where she remarried. She passed away in 1948. Vincent homesteaded the quarter the Red Raven school is on. When he left the community his house was moved into Steve Bensons yard where it is still used as a granary.

At first grain was sown by hand. Mr. Kevis would sit on a chair in the back of the wagon to broadcast the seed while Edgar drove the team. Once when Edgar flopped the reins the horses started up with a jerk and his father toppled out of the wagon.

Ernest married and had a family. Lillian married Arthur Clark. They had five children, Edgar married Louise Jackson. They live at Yahk, B.C. Edgar is the only member of the Kevis family still living.

THE LANAWAY FAMILY

Regenald Arthur Lanaway was born in Sussex, England in 1869. He was sent out with the British Army to Garrison Halifax. Hattie May Bond was born in Hants Country, Nova Scotia in 1879. She was working as a weaver on the looms in Halifax when she met her future husband. They were married in 1904 when Mr. Lanaway was still in the army. When his term of service ended they moved to Spring Hill, Nova Scotia where Mr. Lanaway worked in the mines for a time. Mabel and Gerald were born in Nova Scotia. Mrs. Lanaway with a farm background read of free land in Western Canada - "All you need is your two hands." George was born that fall. Regenald Lanaway was a good bookkeeper but had no experience as a farmer and never liked it. They lived in Lethbridge for about five years while Mr. Lanaway worked on telephone construction. Mabel remembers the crew having a big grey draft horse to pull the wagon loaded with telephone poles for distribution.

They settled on a homestead near the U.S. border and in 1915 he enlisted and Mrs. Lanaway carried on alone for the three years he was overseas.

In 1919 they sold the homestead and trailing their stock, started north with two teams, a dog, a few hens and a rooster and a lamb. They trailed to Lomond, stayed a month but found the land dry and rocky. They arrived in Innisfail in August and again stopped. A chance meeting with a friend from Rocky made the Lanaways decide to turn west. They camped near Raven where they met and talked to Angus Brownlee. He told them there was little homestead land available but that they could probably buy a quarter. They bought a quarter for \$1600 and paid half cash. There were no buildings so they put up a house and barn. To quote Mabel: "Dad didn't know what an axe was made for." They had little feed for their stock and the winter was very hard.

Each one of the Lanaway children was naturally talented in some direction. Education along chosen lines could have meant much to each of them. Instead, the whole family worked to establish a home and make a success of the farm. Education took second place. Mr. and Mrs. Lanaway both worked out. She cooked for threshing crews. Meanwhile they cleared and broke their land. From Bob Shannon, they borrowed and used a horse drawn brush cutter. Eight horses were hitched four abreast. This cutter had a shear to cut off willow brush and worked a bit like a plow.

One day Mabel and Hazel were swimming in the Raven river when a sudden and severe thunderstorm came up. The girls ran for the house. Half way there they were convulsed with laughter at each other's appearance. Their wet hair was standing straight up on end. It was not until much later that they realized the danger they had been in.

Mabel remembers her father as having many novel ideas as to ways of doing things. Quite often these did not turn out as anticipated. When the family moved north from Magrath, one overnight stop they camped in a school yard. Across the fence was a herd of cattle and a bull. They had difficulty keeping the bull away from their own cows. In the morning the bull broke out and followed. They put him back only to have him follow again. Rather than again go back to the gate Mr. Lanaway decided to take out a few staples and stand on the wire so the bull could cross. The bull would not cross at the lowest spot close to Mr. Lanaway. With a rush he hit the fence a few feet away where the wire was higher. The wire was taut. When the bull hit it Mr. Lanaway was catapulted into the air to land head first. The episode was enjoyed immensely by all the family — but one.

In later years Reginald Lanaway left the farm to return to more congenial work. Mrs. Lanaway and the family carried on alone. Mrs. Lanaway passed away in December 1952 and Mr. Lanaway the following year.

Hazel married Lane Berry and they live at Stanmore, Alberta. Their family are: Louise, Lane, Jean, Leah, Ore, Urban and Joan.

Mabel continues to live on the home place. She is an avid gardener and especially enjoys her flowers.

GERALD LANAWAY

Gerald Lanaway farmed the land just west of his parents home. For a number of years Gerald and George ran their own threshing outfit and did custom work throughout the district. Florence Mystrom grew up in the Meeting Creek area. She came to this district to work in Raymond McKains store. Gerald and Florence were married in 1943. Their first five years on the farm were difficult as they were hailed repeatedly. They carried on mixed farming. Florence belonged to the Kevisville hobby club. They have two children. Geraldine clerked for several years in the Spruce View Co-op store. In the fall of 1967 she married Ron Moses. They have one daughter, Michelle and live at Surrey, British Columbia. Lawrence is still at home. In 1966 due to Gerald's poor health Gerald and Florence retired to live in Innisfail.

GEORGE LANAWAY

George Lanaway bought land immediately south of the home place and farmed there. May Adamsen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Adamsen grew up in the Dickson district. George and May were married in 1930 in Calgary. May was only eighteen at the time. George and May have two daughters. Alice married Howard Shannon in 1958. Their family are: Donald, Laura, Lois and Anita. They own and live on George Lanaways home quarter.

May passed away in 1961 and George in 1969. In 1970 Shirley married Robert Rodgers. They live in a trailer on the original Lanaway farm and share the building site with Mabel. Bob Rodgers has a homestead near Valley View and farms both places.

MARTIN LARSEN

Martin and Elenora Larsen were married in Denmark and came to Canada in 1924. They landed in Halifax April 13. Their first job was on a dairy farm in Manitoba. They milked 26 cows, bottled the milk and washed the separator. They spent the first winter in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and thought they nearly froze to death. Next spring, they landed in Alberta, Mrs. Larsen with the measles. They got a job at Shouldice and then in Calgary. They went to Vulcan and stayed until they came to the Kevisville district.

Mrs. Larsen writes, "We have lived here on this same place since 1931, raised nine kids, milked cows, raised pigs and the like — nothing very exciting. It hasn't been a bed of roses by a long shot."

Twice the Larsen family lost their home by fire. Martin had a portable sawmill with which much lumber was sawed. A farmer would get up a setting of logs and the sawmill would be moved in and set up to saw them into lumber. Neighboring farmers with fewer logs to saw would haul them to the mill.

Mary, Jean, Kenneth and Betty were born at Vulcan, the rest of the family in Innisfail. Mary married Carl Gustav Andersen, Jean married Gilbert Bryan and lives east of Innisfail, they have five children. Kenneth is at Winfield, is married and has a boy and a girl. Betty lives in Red Deer and has two daughters and a son. Eric is married and is in

Lacombe and has two children. Howard married Phyllis Bjur. They have four children and farm in the Crammond area. Norman married Evelyn Berg. They have three children. Norman lost his life in an oil well drilling accident near James River in March of 1963. Vernon married Viola Graham. They have three children. The family lives at Caroline where Vernon is part owner of the Pioneer Store. Carol married Donald Fifield, and they have two daughters and live here.

OUR YEARS AT RED RAVEN by Hazel (Lee) Baynham

The thud of hoofs and the rattle of cart wheels, brought the whole Lee family to the door to see father sitting in the new cart, driving Dude, the standard bred stallion which had been brought with us when we had immigrated from Oregon to Alberta in 1905, and about whom many a story could be written. Of his wisdom and sagacity, to say nothing of his mischief, and sometimes downright meanness. We were a family of eight, Father, Mother, Ben, the eldest and only son, Myrtle next in line, followed by Mabel, Gladys, Ethel and myself trailing along some years after.

Myrtle had married before we left Oregon, so she was not with us when we came to Alberta. I was a year and a half old when we came, but a few things are still in my memory of that time.

Our father, Nelson R. Lee, was born in 1859, in Penn. U.S.A. of Scots and English descent. The youngest son of a large family whose father, William Lee, was a kinsman of the famous Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Mother was born Lily Bell Long in 1863 in Illinois, U.S.A. Her twin sister Scynthia Dell, was Mrs. Steve Benson.

Father and mother were married in Missouri, U.S.A. in 1882 and Samuel Bennie was born there in 1883. So when Ben says "I'm from Missouri" when any doubtful statement is made, it is literally true. Mabel, Gladys and Ethel were born in Washington. Father, pioneer that he was, not being able to go farther west moved again. This time south to Oregon. I was born there.

Father worked at various things through the years they journeyed west, at one time on Union Pacific telegraph line, at another on the railroad. After moving to Washington, he took up a preemption. In Canada we'd call it a homestead. He worked in the timber logging, and in Oregon had a little farm with a young orchard started. In 1905 his "itching" feet took him to Alberta, where Mother's twin sister and her husband and family had already gone. The Bensons had moved to Alberta a short time before, so after hearing from them of the opportunities awaiting such hardy pioneers, father followed with a car load of cattle, horses and household goods, and of course, the family, other than Myrtle, who had married William W. Dundon in 1902.

We all arrived in Innisfail in December and spent the winter at Antler Hill. Father took up a homestead approximately twenty-eight miles west of Innisfail, near where the Raven and the Red Deer rivers join.

We moved out there in the spring of 1906 and lived in a tent until the log house was built in which we lived for a number of years. There were no graded roads in those days only trails; and they followed the ridges and less wooded areas. During a cycle of wet years, to get the team and wagon stuck in a mud hole was a common occurrence.

There were only a few settlers in that part of the country as yet. Robert Shannon and family were a mile north of us on the banks of the Raven River. The Baileys were half a mile east of us, and Aunt Dell and Uncle Steven Benson and family were about a mile west, (a few other families here and there.)

Father spent much of the summers of those early years travelling Dude, the standard bred stallion I spoke of before. There were few, if any others in that part of the country, and Father drove him hitched to the cart or, where he couldn't go with the cart he rode him. Dude's official name was Admiral Dewey but to us he was Dude. A deep red bay with the style and action of the Hackney carriage horse, and his offspring were found from Caroline to Mound, Red Lodge, and the Big Bend, and perhaps farther. While speaking of him, I must recount the story father often told, how coming home one evening, taking a short cut, he found himself into one of the muskegs that abounded at that time. Dude was starting to sink, and was trembling with fear. Many a horse or other animal had gone down in these muskegs, never to be seen again. They both knew there would be no help, if he went down too far. Father immediately slid off and carefully feeling his way from tussock to tussock, with the muskeg's surface bending and quivering beneath, he led Dude, who just as carefully stepped exactly in his master's footsteps, never making a misstep until, after what seemed hours, they reached higher ground. These muskegs had at one time been lakes and gradually in the process of time had grown in from the sides. Grass and willow seed had lodged in the floating debris until a crust had grown over. I believe most of them have grown in entirely now, and become meadows and farm lands. Now back to the family.

Father was a big man, six feet tall, and handsome. Mother was about five feet four inches and judging by a few pictures we have, was a lovely woman. In fact all the family had their share of good looks, all but me, and I've always thought that by the time I came along, they'd run out of suitable material and I just got the leftovers.

Those early days on the homestead were days of hard work, clearing land, putting up hay for the stock, and numerous other tasks. There were also many pleasures. The creek which ran through our place teemed with fish, native trout, grayling and the less desirable suckers. Often Ben and the girls went fishing, taking me along to carry fish, and also to switch the water above the fishing holes, or below, whichever was necessary to scare the fish within reach of their snares. Yes, they snared them then. Once in a while a line was used but that was entirely too slow, snaring was much faster, and that too, took

considerable skill. I remember once father went along to try his hand at it. He got fish in his snare alright, two at once in fact, but he pulled so hard, he almost cut them in two, while he was holding them aloft and shouting to us all to look what he'd caught, the fish fell back in the creek cut completely in halves. That was the finish of father's fishing. He went back to find work more suited to his manly strength. Then there was grouse and prairie chicken hunting engaged in when rounding up the cows at night and morning, and quite often in between times. In the fall there were blueberries to pick. Often when the men folk were haying, the rest of us picked blueberries. We made a picnic of it, taking our lunch along, also a jar of cream to go on a dish of berries (a most delectable dessert.)



Nelson Lee family — L. to R.: Gladys, Mrs. Lee, Myrtle, Ethel, Ben, Nelson Lee, Mabel and inset, Hazel.

During the summer there would be various community picnics, which I looked forward to in delightful anticipation. One especially that comes to mind, was held, about 8 miles from us, on the South Raven, at a place which at that time, was known as Fenkel's Grove. Everyone for miles around, dressed in their best and driving their highest stepping horses started out as early in the morning as chores would allow. Many carriages would be decorated with flags and banners, the ladies with colorful umbrellas to protect from the sun, or quite often, to shield them from a sudden downpour of rain. Many settlers on the Raven at that time were from the U.S.A. and the picnics were usually held on the 4 of July. "Old Glory" flew from the flag pole on the picnic grounds with a small Union Jack above it. Long tables had been built under the pines, and everyone put their lunch out. First on the program were the races, from the tiny tots on up to the adults, with a few novelty races as well. Usually by the time these were over, it was time for lunch. Right after lunch, came the horse races, followed by a ball game. Those who were not interested in the ball game stayed for an impromptu program held in a small pavilion under the trees. At night there was a dance which most of the young people attended. The elders and children going home to "do the chores". It was an occasion to be looked forward to, and to look back upon after it was over.

In the winter, box socials and the Christmas concert were the highlights of the season, with dances, parties and skating parties in between.

In 1906 my sister Mabel was married to Aubrey St. Clair Scarfe, at his mother's home east of Innisfail. (They had met while we lived at Antler Hill.) The following year their daughter Carie Hazel was born.

There was no school in our community until 1909, at which time I started. By that time there were a few more families in the district. The name given the school district was Red Raven, suggested by father because of the position it occupied between the Red Deer and Raven Rivers.

Time moved on. Ethel married a southerner from Kentucky, Theodore L. Jump and for some years they lived in the Raven district. To them were born Gordon and Ruby. Only Ruby lives. Gladys married Joe G. Brightman and lived for some years in the Garrington district. Of her four children, three are living. Evelyn lives at Saanichton B.C. Elsie at Rutland B.C. Armon at Sundre Alberta. Doris, the youngest, passed away. Ben never married.

Back to Dude again. He was getting along in years, and a man from Red Lodge wanted him, so father traded him for two young mares. Before he took Dude to his new owners, he had bought a three year old Percheron stallion, Admiral Togo, and Dude hated the sound and smell of him and tried his hardest to get at him.

One day father had me holding Togo's halter rope while he ate grass in the yard. Father turned Dude out into the corral so he could get a drink at the creek. Instead of going out for a drink, he ran to the fence where he could see Togo grazing, and with a mighty war cry he challenged him to battle. Togo of course accepted the challenge and pulled away from me as though I were not there. A shriek from mother brought father out of the barn on the run to see both horses reared up the fence, ears back, jaws apart reaching for the jugular.

How father got them apart, I still don't know. One minute more and the fence would have been down and nothing could have separated them. The next day father took Dude to his new home. I never saw him after, but father visited him a few times, and said he seemed contented. Father had taught him to lift his right foreleg and shake hands, and whenever he visited him, Dude remembered, and lifted his foot to shake.

One of the mares that father had traded Dude for, was a little bay cow pony, well trained and she became my special property. I learned to ride on her, and our chore was to round up the cows at milking time. I took many a tumble off her before I learned to cling like a burr to her back. Father never let me use a saddle, lest I get hung up by the stirrups and dragged, as we had heard of this happening in the vicinity. Maud knew her business better than I did, and sometimes when she turned quickly to head off a stubborn cow, I kept right on going the way we'd started.

Our home was often the midway stopping place for travellers, and new settlers going west, or east, whichever way their journeying took them, and the stories told around the fire in the evenings, were always fascinating to me as a child. Father recounted experiences with cougars, bear and various other animals, as well as those he had with horses and mules, even threw in a few ghost stories for good measure. The evening often finished with father singing some of his famous songs. He had a fine voice, and knew endless songs of western and southern origin. He even knew a few that were more suitable for a bar-room, and when in a spirit of mischief he started on one of those, mother lost no time in "Shushing" him up. She too had a good singing voice and used to sing many children's songs to us.

I was the only one of the family who shared father's love of horses, and as soon as I was able to ride, I was taken along with him to help round up the band and bring them in for branding and halter-breaking. Quite often I would be in the corral in the midst of plunging, frightened horses, with Mother crying out in terror. She always had a terrible fear of them and was sure I would be trampled to death.

Father bought a place up on the Raven, Ben took over the home place and in 1920, I married Charles H. Baynham.

Father remained a strong man until his untimely, accidental death in 1924. Mother died in 1936, never recovering from major surgery. We are all gone from the home place. Gladys in Bowden, Myrtle and Mabel have passed away, Ethel at present is at Saanichton, B.C. My own daughter Ellice is now a missionary teacher's wife in Rwanda, Africa.

LUNDGREN HISTORY

Imagine a young couple, both twenty-nine years of age with a three year old daughter leaving everything familiar to come to a different country to begin a new life. This is the step which brought Axel and Petrine Lundgren and small Gerda to Hardington, Nebraska in the summer of 1895. Having met as children in an orphanage in Copenhagen, Denmark, they were married on May 3rd, 1891. Their daughter, Gerda was born in 1892. Axel's twin brother, Rudolf, had come to Hardington years earlier. The brothers were reunited after an arduous ocean journey on which Petrine, now carrying a second child, was terribly seasick. A son was born October 10th, 1895 and the couple named him Rudolf after the brother they had again come to know.

For a time the brothers worked together on Rudolf's farm and it was here while husking corn that Axel injured his right eye which later was removed. Soon the desire for land of his own sent him to Danish settlements in North and South Dakota. He chose a homestead near Bowbells, North Dakota and spent seven years there. Three children were born to them these being a daughter who died in infancy and two sons, Oscar in 1901 and Ernst in 1903.

The dust and winds of this region irritated Axel's injured eye. His nearest neighbor was Martinus



Mr. and Mrs. Axel Lundgren.

Nielsen who had a cousin in Alabama (Nels Nielsen who changed his name to Norgaard and later moved to Crooked Creek district). Axel decided to move there hoping that climate would be more favorable. He was involved in various phases of the lumbering business in Point Claire for three years but when there seemed no chance for advancement he returned to Bowbells the summer of 1906. During that winter he and Martinus Nielsen traveled to the Dickson and Kevisville areas and before going back to Bowbells filed homesteads on land currently owned by Mrs. Ida Law. When Axel returned with his family in the spring of 1907 the land he thought would be a lovely hay meadow was instead a muskeg. He released his homestead and the family settled in Dickson. He homesteaded land south east of Kevisville when the railroad released it. Axel obtained a timber permit and took out lumber which he used to build a house and he moved his family to Kevisville in the spring of 1909.

For a period of 33 years Petrine and Axel served their fellow church members and the community willingly. In the field of politics, Axel served many times as a scrutineer and enumerator. He was a member of the school board and visited new members of the community to inform them of school and church activities. A much respected leader of Immanuel's Danish Lutheran congregation at Kevisville he often served as minister when none was present, performing regular Sunday services or funeral and burial ceremonies. Axel built caskets and he and Petrine visited the homes of deceased persons preparing them for burial. He located the present site of the Kevisville Cemetery and served as it's caretaker until his retirement. He was Sunday School Superintendent for some twenty years. Axel was very fond of sports, enjoyed playing the trumpet and violin and walked many miles in quest of a quiet game of checkers or chess. Petrine was president of the Kevisville Women of the Church for twenty-five years and was an avid and talented gardener. They celebrated their golden and diamond wedding anniversaries in 1941 and 1951 respectively. Retiring in 1942 to Standard, Alberta they later moved to the Bethany Lutheran Home in Calgary. With their passing (Petrine 1953 and Axel 1959) their children

inherited a legacy of Christian example to strengthen them all their lives.

Gerda became Mrs. Ted Jensen on November 6th, 1911. Ted's family had come from the Weyburn, Saskatchewan area to Dickson in 1909 where Ted and his brother Wesley farmed for ten years. In 1919 they moved to Innisfail where he worked with Bert Carter and Dick Kramer until he and Oscar Lundgren bought the Dobson garage and went into business on February 1st, 1925.

Gerda played the piano and organ and was a member of the Innisfail United Church choir for many years. They had five children; Howard (married Jean Davidson, has three children, Ron, David and Wendy and now operates the Raven General-store), Norman (farming on Ted's property in the Raven area), Ernest (living in the Caroline area) and twin daughters, Helen Crossfield of Calgary and Marie Purcell of Innisfail. Gerda passed away in 1942.

When the Lundgren-Jensen partnership dissolved in 1948 the three boys operated the business until 1954 and Ted retired to a farm in the Raven area and spent much of his time hunting and photographing wildlife. An excellent shot he represented Canada in the British Commonwealth Rifle Shoot at Bissely, England in 1932 and 1936 once as Canadian Champion. He passed away after a brief illness in 1963.

Rudolf, as many eldest sons had his roots in the land and in those early years helped on the farm but travelled into the southern part of Alberta to help with the summer work. In 1917 he was called into the Army but because of an illness spent the last months of the war in a Calgary hospital. During the 20s and 30s he did custom chopping and sawing and many of the neighbors depended on him for their flour for bread and porridge, and for firewood.

On June 26th, 1930 he married Mariam Madsen. Their son, Kenneth still farms the original homestead at Kevisville and is married to Myrna Matthews of Claresholm and they have four children, Roger, Norman, Darcy and Karen. Rudolf and Mariam's daughter, Darlene Bryan lives in Coquitlam, B.C. and has one son, Dallas.

Rudolf, being interested in sports, refereed hockey and was manager of the baseball team. He held the position of Secretary-Treasurer of Immanuel's Danish Lutheran congregation for a number of years and has served for years as a Director of the Kevisville Credit Union. Active for many years in the Kevisville Women of the Church, Mariam has also held executive positions on Kevisville Credit Union, Hobby Club and Innisfail Photo Club. Although semi-retired, Rudolf enjoys farming and Mariam photography.

Oscar attended the Olds Agricultural College for two winters and played on the college hockey team. He was a member of the Jack Pine Savages ball club and worked on farms in southern Alberta. He entered the garage business in Innisfail in 1925 and has played a prominent role in business, town, sports, church and community activities.

Ernst passed away in 1923 at the age of twenty years having contracted typhoid and meningitis while working on a farm in the Standard area.

MADSEN HISTORY by Mariam Lundgren

Jens Madsen and Mary Westergaard were married in Racine, Wisconsin in 1891. Both were born in Denmark. They lived in Racine for eight years where Jens was employed as a drayman. A daughter, Myrtle and a son, Nels were born there in 1892 and 1894. Nels was a sickly baby and doctors advised the family to move from the city. Pastor Nels Bentsen (later a pastor at Dickson and Kevisville) was a great comfort to them. They moved to a farm at Bird Island, Minnesota where Ethel was born in 1900. While Ethel was a toddler a group of gypsies passed by and kidnapped her. After some anxious hours she was found and returned to her family.

By now John Madsen of Denmark joined the family and in 1905 they decided to move to Canada. While on the place one mile south and one and one half miles west of Dickson, they broke some land with a team of oxen. Mother tried to drive the oxen while Dad guided the plow. Everything went fine until the flies got hungry, then the furrow usually led to the nearest bunch of brush. Nels often rode the one oxen to Dickson for groceries and mail. Ethel stayed at Louis Christensen's just north of Dickson to attend school.

The wanderlust still plagued Dad and John, so they headed further west, where they each filed on a homestead a couple of miles apart. John soon decided to go back to Dad's sister in North Dakota (Helga Adamsen's mother). He married a teacher, Lena Broughton who boarded there and helped him learn English. They moved to Princeton, Minnesota where John was a blacksmith.

When John gave up his homestead Dad filed on it. Dodging muskegs, sloughs and cutting down trees to make a trail, they found a suitable place to settle. Clearing away the trees and brush they built a small two-room house, and a corral to hold the few animals at night. In the daytime Mom and Nels would herd them while they filled up on the luscious grass. With his trusty 22 rifle, Nels shot partridge and rabbits which were plentiful then and made a tasty addition to the meals. Whenever he could Dad stayed home to improve the homestead but he had to go out working to get cash for necessities.

In 1911 a third daughter Mariam came onto the scene. Myrtle came home from work to be with her mother. A bachelor neighbor came to visit this particular night, but they had to ask him to leave the small house. Mrs. Peter Hansen, a friend and neighbor, acted as midwife.

When Nels was old enough he also filed on a quarter, just north of Fredericksens. But Nels was not interested in farming. Coming in one day after plowing with the horses he hung up his hat and said, "This is not for me." So he built a sawmill. His young sister was anxious to help, but the slabs were surely heavy. One day he gave her a tiny chew of snuff trying to convince her it would make her really strong. It con-

vinced her - she had better stay away. After sawing lumber at home and various other places he wound up at Sundre and Coal Camp. Nels married Hattie Battie and they had one son, Edwin. When he was of school age they sold the sawmill and opened a lumber yard at Olds. Nels passed away in 1962. Hattie and Edwin managed the lumber yard for a time, then sold to the Co-op. Hattie kept her Olds home until she died in 1972.

When Crooked Creek school opened in 1911, Ethel came home to attend. Before long it was closed for lack of pupils. As a young girl Ethel went to work at the Innisfail Hospital and was cook there when she quit in 1920 to marry Richard Nielsen of Dickson. They worked at Cayley and Standard and then came to Dickson to Richard's dad's farm and farmed there many years. Six children were born to the family - Clifford, Rita, Dwayne, Audrey and twin girls, Myrna and Fern. The Nielsens have natural musical ability and many happy hours were spent with the family playing and singing. The family took a keen interest in church work. Richard and Ethel sold the farm to Gunnar Hansen and retired to Red Deer where in 1970 they celebrated their Golden Anniversary.

Back at the homestead, school was a real problem when I, Mariam, was of age. I started at Red Raven staying with Myrtle who had married and lived close to the school, then boarded with family friends, Andrew Hansens to attend Rich Hill. Although treated as one of the family, a Friday night Dad was expected but didn't come was especially remembered. No supper was eaten because a lump stopped the food going down. For awhile Elsa Gundersen stayed at our home and taught Seigrid Frederickson and myself. A blackboard and a couple of desks from the school were put in an extra room Mr. Kolding helped build to our house. (By raising the roof this addition also added two bedrooms upstairs). There was a short stay at the Will Bailey home west of Red Raven school while the two muskegs between Frederickson's and Red Raven school were made passable. Then we rode horseback. This wasn't too satisfactory in the winter as the teacher kept the school locked until he came. In bad weather we got very cold on a three and one half mile ride and couldn't get in to get warm. Finally the Crooked Creek school opened again and although we walked three miles it was a pleasure to be home. The teacher usually boarded at our home and Bertha Jensen, a niece who came to stay with us earlier was now ready for school. We were company for each other which helped.

Mother and Dad were community minded. Dad served on the Crooked Creek school board for years, and they were charter members of Immanuel's Lutheran Danish congregation and Ladies Aid of Kevisville. Before this organization was formed we would pile into the lumber wagon. After hitting the high spots and opening seventeen gates we would arrive at Dickson in time for church at 11:00 a.m. Living a long way from hospital and doctors, mother

was called to many homes and would serve as midwife or help in cases of illness or accident.

During the first World War Mother was seriously ill with flu. I was really frightened when she was delirious. Dr. Wagner and Dr. Turner came from Innisfail by buggy and team. I wasn't very old but remember Dad asked if I could make the doctors a cup of coffee. Picking some strawberries from the garden we served them with fresh cream, home-made bread and butter, for the doctors a really special treat. We milked several cows by now and mother churned and printed the butter which she traded for groceries. During mother's illness milking, separating and churning went quite well but printing the butter was extra hard. Dad's sister and her husband, from North Dakota came and stayed until mother was better. This was a real boost. Then mother was busy again. I remember stopping to listen, if she was humming or singing as she worked I was happy because I knew she was O.K.

There were many happy occasions, church services in the homes with social hour after, Sunday School, school and community picnics, ball games, berry-picking outings, friendly visits with neighbors or relatives, pitching horseshoes, even an afternoon or evening walk along a wooded trail.

In the early 1920s dad's eyesight started to fail. After an unsuccessful operation on the one eye he was totally blind for a year. After an operation on the second eye he could see enough to get around. They sold the farm to their daughter and son-in-law Myrtle and John Sandberg and retired to Dickson in 1928. In 1933 Dad passed away in his sleep. Mother lived there until 1951 when she passed away. With a heavy heart we often think back how hard Dad and Mom worked on that homestead and how little they had. Dad was a lover of horses, so they were well fed and frisky. While breaking the colts he would quite often have a runaway. Mother was exceptionally capable, always having her housework done so when Dad needed her for piling and burning brush, stooking, stacking bundles or hay or doing chores she was there. May God bless their memory.

Myrtle and John lived in Powers Lake, North Dakota where they operated a hotel and restaurant. They rented the farm. John would bring a truck load or two of things up during the summer and spend some time fencing or clearing. Later they sold the hotel and John, Myrtle, Victor, Lloyd and Ruth came back and made the farm their home. In 1950 due to Myrtle's ill health and poor road conditions they sold the farm and moved to Spruce View on the quarter of the old Co-op store site. For ten years they operated this farm and carried on the experimental work begun by Andrew Larsen. In 1960 they sold to Bertha and Adolf Raun and retired to Innisfail. Myrtle and John's hospitality and Lloyd's ability on piano and accordian made many a visit very enjoyable.

THE MARCHANT FAMILY

Several members of the Marchant family came to the Kevisville area in the mid thirties. Ian Marchant and his wife Alice and three sons; Rod Campbell and

his wife Olga, one daughter and four sons and Mrs. Marchant Senior were here for several years. Betty Marchant was here a short time before she moved to Innisfail and is now Mrs. Richard Percy. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Marchant were in the area a short time. The Campbell family moved to Calgary and the Ian Marchant family moved to Westward Ho in 1946. After leaving the district Mrs. Marchant Sr. made her home with her daughter Betty in Innisfail.

KENNETH MCINTOSH

Kenneth McIntosh and Ivy McKain (only daughter of Lester McKain) were married in Calgary in March 1940. Ken farmed in the Hussar district for a couple of years. They moved to the Kevisville district in 1942 and Ken trucked for several years, hauling anything and everything. At that time there were no hard topped highways and no snow plows. As a result it sometimes took two days and a lot of shovelling to get from Innisfail to Kevisville.

In 1948 Ken bought a quarter section on the river flat east of Kevisville. He farmed and worked out on a brush cutter for four years. In the spring of 1952 the Red Deer River flooded much of the flat - the first serious flooding since 1915. In the fall of 1952 Ken and his family moved back to the Hussar area where he now farms his own land.

Ken and Ivy have two children - Kenneth has been with the Bank of Nova Scotia since 1960 and is now in Edmonton. Twyla is at home and attends school in Hussar.

R.J. McKAIN

Roy Jasper McKain was born February 12, 1868 in Ohio. His wife Sarah Ethel Long was born March 5, 1870 in Illinois. Ethel Long was the youngest of three sisters who with their families all settled in the area later to be known as the Kevisville district. Mrs. Nelson Lee and Mrs. Steve Benson with their families arrived ahead of the McKains. The Lees spent their first winter at Antler Hill. While there, their daughter Mabel met her future husband Aubrey Scarfe. They were married in late 1906 and returned to Spokane Washington on their honeymoon. It was the young couple's urging that decided Jay and Effie McKain to join their relatives in Alberta. The two families returned together in February 1907. The McKains brought only their wearing apparel. Their household effects arrived later.

Tom Benson was batching in the log house on his homestead. He moved out and let the McKain family live in the house for the remainder of the winter. In the interim Jay McKain took up a homestead about five miles west, cut a road to it and built a house. As were all others, the McKain home was of logs. Lester did much of the work of building it. This log house is still standing. The McKain family were the first settlers in the Crooked Creek district. Trails were long, they angled to follow the ridges. Even then corduroy was needed in many places. When a new settler arrived he started at his nearest neighbor's and cut a trail to his own place. Jay and Effie McKain remained on their homestead until about 1917 when

they moved to a mile east of Red Raven to the land homesteaded by Dan Davis.

Jay and Effie McKain had nine children. Nellie Lester, Harry, Raymond, Clifford and Cecil were born in the United States and came with their parents to Alberta. Clifford died as a boy. Myrtle, Edith and Elmer were born here. Nellie married Arthur Lenox in Calgary in 1914. (Arthur, Cecil and Joe Lenox lived for a time with their mother in the Crooked Creek district.) After their marriage Arthur and Nellie Lenox lived for several years in this district. They bought the Red Raven (later to be known as Kevisville) store from Ernie Forbes who first opened it at his farm home one half mile north of the Kevisville corner. The store was moved to the corner where it remained until 1962. Arthur also hauled cream. Arthur and Nellie Lenox sold the store to Raymond McKain and moved to Calgary where Arthur worked for many years in the Ogden C.P.R. shops. Arthur passed away in 1962. Nellie resides in Calgary. Their three sons and one daughter are all married. Wilbert lives in Arlington, Pa. U.S.A., Elmer in Edmonton, Clinton Homer in Calgary and Mildred (Mrs. J.E. Serbin) in Ottawa, Ont. Lester, Harry, Raymond and Cecil McKain remained in this area. Myrtle married J. McClinton of Calgary. They have one son Donald and one daughter Dallas both married and living in Calgary. Myrtle later married Lloyd Schuler. They live in Camrose, Edith married Robert Long. They lived for several years in the Raven district before moving to B.C. Their family are three sons Frank, Robert and Charles all living in Prince Rupert B.C. and three daughters Iris (Mrs. P. Smith) of Kingston, Ont., Dawn (Mrs. D. Windsor) of Vancouver and Patricia. Bob Long passed away in 1962. Edith makes her home in Prince Rupert. Elmer commonly known by the nickname "Buck" married Venie Mitchel from Turner Valley. They lived in this district for several years where Elmer had a general trucking business. They moved to Black Diamond where they still reside. They have one son Kenneth who also lives in the Turner Valley area. He is



Mr. and Mrs. R. J. McKain — 1938.

married and has two sons. Their daughter Dallas is still at home. In 1937 Raymond McKain built a new store. The old Kevisville store was remodelled into a dwelling. Jay and Effie McKain left their farm to retire there the same year. Jay McKain passed away suddenly in September 1939. In 1956 Mrs. McKain's home was destroyed by fire. Fortunately Nellie and Arthur were visiting her at the time and no one was hurt in the blaze. Only an armful of crocheted doilies was saved from the front room and a very few pieces of furniture from the rest of the house. A smaller house was erected on the old foundation and Effie McKain continued to make her home in the district where so much of her life had been spent. Grandma McKain was a generous and kindly person respected by the entire community and afforded deep affection by those who knew her well. She was a gardener who loved her flowers. Her chief hobby was crocheting. She often made up her own patterns. She still did a great deal of crocheting when she was well past eighty. She lived in her home until the last year or two when she went to Calgary to stay with Nellie. Grandma McKain passed away in January 1962 less than two months before her ninety-second birthday.

A. LESTER MCKAIN

Lester McKain came as a teenager with his parents to a homestead in the Kevisville area in 1907. About four years later he took up his own homestead four miles west and one and a half north of Red Raven school. Jeanette Stewart grew up near Paisley, Ont. She came west to teach and in 1914 taught Crooked Creek school. She boarded at the R.J. McKain home. Lester and Jeanette were married in 1915 and moved to Lester's homestead where their first son Alvin was born.

Crossing the Red Deer river had always been a problem for the pioneers living on its north west side. As the country became more settled the problem intensified until the need for a bridge became apparent. In 1912 a three span steel bridge was built over the Red Deer river east of the Lundgren and Bertelsen homesteads. Mr. Campbell was the government engineer in charge. This bridge went out during a period of very high water in 1915. In the spring of 1916 a ferry was put on the Red Deer river almost due east of Red Raven school. Harry McKain operated it for about a month. Then Lester took over. In order to be close to his work, Lester, Jeanette and their baby son camped in a tent on the high east bank of the river. About the end of June trouble really hit when the water began to rise. It was high enough to be dangerous when Claude House rode up on horseback to cross. Lester was reluctant but finally decided he would attempt the crossing. They were in mid stream when the cable slipped off the drum, the ferry broke loose and started drifting down the river. Lester tried to snub it to the bank but lost the rope in eight feet of water. The men reached shore but the ferry drifted about two miles on down the river. Back safely on the east bank Lester felt he should report the accident to the government officials. This meant

reaching the west bank. He made a rude trolley out of 2 x 4's and rigged it to a long rope. He hoped to swing from the high east bank across on the ferry cable to the tower on the west side. To the bottom of the trolley he tied his rubber boots and a pail (the latter to bring milk back from Lees for the baby). Instead of going on over, the trolley slacked up at the bottom of its swing and banged really hard into the water. Lester had no time to think of boots or pail. He scrambled for the rope, reached the cable and went hand over hand along it to the tower one hundred yards away. Safe at the tower, his hands bleeding from contact with the cable, with no sign of boots or pail he waded a side channel and walked barefoot over a mile to Tom Benson's for help and a row boat. Lester remained at the river for several weeks ferrying the few people who wished to cross in a row boat. When it became apparent the ferry could not be brought back into service he bought Tom Benson's homestead where he lived until he retired in Innisfail in 1968. While living on the farm Lester and Jean had the tragic experience common to so many early settlers of losing their home by fire.

In the early years Lester did a lot of trapping. He was always active in sports, especially baseball. He was catcher for the early Red Raven team, the "Jack Pine Savages". He continued to play until he was seriously injured when hit on the head by a ball thrown by Roy Orcott of Raven. He was rushed to the Innisfail hospital where he remained unconscious for some time. That ended his ball playing. It also ended Roy Orcott's pitching. He was so concerned about the accident he never cared to throw another ball. Lester remained a baseball fan and followed the game closely. In later years when hard ball was replaced by fastball Lester managed the Red Raven team. He liked to whittle on small sticks and always had his jack knife handy. He was deeply concerned over the fortunes of his team. The more tense the situation the faster Lester whittled. A bystander could judge whether it was a good or bad day for the Kevisville team by the speed of Lester's whittling. Two other life long interests are hunting and fishing. The latter he still enjoys. Lester is also an active gardener. On the farm he had a raspberry patch and a large well kept lawn. In Lester and Jean McKain's home friends, neighbors, even strangers were always welcome to stop for a chat. The cellar was full of canned fruit and vegetables so an extra plate was often set on the table at a moments notice for an unexpected guest. Jean sewed for her family and herself. In later years she did a lot of crochet work.

Lester and Jeanette celebrated their golden wedding in December 1965. There was a family dinner at the home of their son and his wife Earl and Ruby. All the children and most of the grandchildren were present. They were also honored by a gathering of friends and relatives in the Kevisville Church parlor and the presentation of a gift from the community. Jeanette passed away at her home in Innisfail in September 1968. Lester continues to reside in Innisfail.

ALVIN McKAIN

Lester McKain's eldest son Alvin, often known by his nickname "Bill" grew up in the district. In 1941 he married Phyllis Holroyd, the daughter of neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Holroyd. Alvin and Phyllis moved to the farm just north of Lester's home quarter and have lived there since. They are both very interested in baseball. Alvin started playing when in his teens and his interest has continued. Phyllis has always helped the team in any way she could by working in the refreshment stand, keeping score etc. Alvin has played on a local hockey team with his brothers; Borden, Tom and Wallace Shannon, George and Gerald Lanaway, John and Andrew Fleischmann and other neighborhood boys. Phyllis is active in church and community. Alvin and Phyllis have four children. Larry married Kathleen Fosier from Caroline. Larry bought his granddad McKain's land and farms it. He has two sons, Darin and Wendle. Sylvia attended university in Edmonton. Sylvia has her B.E. and B.A. and is teaching in Edmonton. Sylvia married Ernie Lund from Yorkshire, England, also a teacher in Edmonton. Judith married Howard Bugg, a tinsmith from Sylvan Lake. They live at Sylvan Lake. They have two children Tamara and Blaine. Edwin is still at home. He has been on the Spruce View Junior High volleyball team for three years, also plays basketball and hockey and is a member of Markerville Squadron Air Cadets.

W.C. McKAIN

Charlie McKain, second son of Lester McKain has spent all his life in the district. He married Jessie Petersen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Petersen of the Crooked Creek district. Charlie and Jessie live on an acreage at the Kevisville corner. Charlie has a trucking business and in the winter runs a trap line in the Swan Lake area. Charlie and Jessie have three children (they lost a baby in 1952). David worked for A.G.T. in Calgary, was for a time, a member of the Toronto Metropolitan police force and is again with A.G.T. in Red Deer. Louise and Joey are still at home.

EARL McKAIN

Arthur Earl McKain commonly known by his nickname "Mike" is Lester McKain's youngest son. He joined the Canadian army in 1941 and served until 1945. During that period he spent one year in Holland. Ruby Pearl Clay, daughter of Olin Clay, grew up near Stauffer. Earl and Ruby were married in 1943. In 1949 Earl moved back to the Kevisville district with his wife Ruby and their two small daughters Janet and Verna. About two years earlier Ben Lee had sold his place, the original Lee homestead, to Mrs. Alice Freschette and her son Fred. Earl bought this place, which adjoined his father's land on the east, and continues to farm it. Earl played hockey and baseball on local teams and has never lost his interest in softball. At one time the local ball team consisted largely of McKains, Bensons and Johnsons, all related. Earl and Ruby rarely miss a Kevisville ball game and at home games Ruby,

along with her sister-in-law Phyllis, regularly takes charge of the refreshment stand. Earl and Ruby's son Lanny was born after they moved back to this district. At present he is working out but he still spends much of his time helping at home. Janet trained as a nurse and is an R.N. She married David Evans from Calgary and they live there. They have three children Jeanne, Jackiline and David. Verna worked in the Royal Bank in Innisfail. She married Thomas Chamberlain of Caroline. Tom's work requires the family to move at intervals so they have a large trailer home. At present they are living in Earl and Ruby's yard. They have three children Lora, Joseph and Michial.

Ruby especially remembers one municipal election day not long after they moved onto their farm. Cars were in regular use in the district that winter yet due to a recent storm, election day saw roads to Dickson, where residents of this area voted, blocked solid with drift after drift of snow. In many places the drifts were well over the tops of the fence posts. There were determined voters around Kevisville. Earl took his team and sleigh with a load of about fifteen neighbors and drove to Dickson. In places the drifts were so hard the team walked over them. In other places the going was heavy and most of the passengers walked to save the horses. Everyone voted and returned to their homes none the worse for the days outing.

HARRY McKAIN SR. STORY by Goldie Challand

Harry was born at Kashen, Oklahoma, U.S.A. September 15, 1894, the second son of Jay and Effie McKain. He emigrated to Canada from Spokane, Washington in February 1907 at the age of 13 years. He came to Innisfail by train with his parents and brothers Lester and Raymond and sister Nellie. Horses and wagon brought the family and their few belongings west to a one room log house on the homestead of Tom Benson. This land is now owned by Lester's grandson Larry.

The family lived there for about a year, until Harry's Dad got a log cabin built on his homestead in the Crooked Creek district.

There were no schools in the early days of Crooked Creek, so any more schooling Harry got was at the Red Raven School.

Harry struck out at an early age and homesteaded land northwest of the old Kevis place, now Robert Brownlee's. When his cabin and belongings were destroyed by fire, the land was given up.

Fire seemed to follow Harry, and he was burned out twice more during his life time. The second time was on a farm across the Red Deer River in 1919 in the neighborhood of the Tingle and Tom Fulton farms. The third fire was during the depression years, when the house and out buildings in the Red Raven district were destroyed by a bush fire in 1931. Harry was away at the time at a post camp, and his wife and two pre-school children escaped the fire with only the clothes they were wearing. The other children were all at school.

The family was scattered about between relatives until a frame house was constructed, which the neighbors gave a helping hand to build, and soon the family were back together again on a new location, south and west of the old building site. This land is now owned by Ebbesen Bros.

The good and the lean years, with its ups and downs, as well as sickness and disappointments didn't get Harry down. He prospered and raised a hard working prosperous family of seven.

Harry was the first of his family to marry. In 1914 he and Lena Neff were married in Calgary. Lena was born in Karlsrike, Baden Germany and had recently come over from France to visit her Dad, Fred Neff, who was also homesteading in the Crooked Creek district. His land is now owned by Jenny Morris. Harry and Lena started their housekeeping in a small log house on Lester's homestead in the Crooked Creek district. Harry was later employed on a farm near Horseshoe Lake where their first child, Mark, was born.

Throughout the years Harry was always ready and willing to give a helping hand to anyone.

When the hauling of lumber, posts, supplies etc., to and from Innisfail was undertaken, team and driver often stopped the night at Harry's for lodging and rest, and all were most welcome.

Harry took many risks and braved many dangers helping people ford the Red Deer River, when this was the only means of crossing in the early days. In one instance of seasonal high waters the team and equipment of Mr. Bailey were lost to the rampaging waters but the men were lucky enough to escape.

There were ball games, dances, parties and cards, which Harry was always a part of. He called the square dances and auctioned at the box socials. Harry enjoyed company and could be the life of a party.

Christmas during the latter years was a double celebration when children and grandchildren made the occasion a reunion as well.

In 1933 Harry bought the old Pew place one-half mile west of the Kevisville church and lived there until he was hospitalized in Calgary in 1960. He had three major operations in one year for bowel cancer. He completely recovered. He then sold this farm and retired to Innisfail. Two years later Harry and son Wesley bought a half section in the Cottonwood district and rented it for one year. Harry, Lena, and grandson Lyle moved on to this farm in July 1963. In October Harry suffered a heart condition and passed away.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his seven children and their families.

Mark lives in Edmonton and is employed at the University. His four sons, James, William, Leslie and Ivan are with him. His wife, the former Grace Henderson of Lumsden, Sask. passed away in October 1962.

Goldie lives in Calgary. Her husband Harry Challand, who worked in the oil industry, passed away in 1957. Their two sons Harlow and Graham are overseas with the oil industry. Harlow is in Den-

mark offshore drilling on the North Sea. He was married to the former Sandra Irvine of Edmonton in 1966. Graham is in the Middle East offshore drilling on the Persian Gulf. Her step daughters, Gloria Rowles lives at Drayton Valley and Jacqueline Morrow in Tucson, Arizona.

Zita married a local boy Hans Jantzen.

Harry Jr. (Honey) married the former Joyce Shannon.

Ruby and her husband Allen Scharff and their chosen son Allen Jr. live in Grande Prairie. He is employed with Pan American Oils. Ruby's first son, Lyle, by a former marriage, was raised by his grandparents and took the McKain name. Lyle married Barbara Lee of Penhold and they live in Innisfail.

Wesley lives in Edmonton with his wife, the former Martha Kearney from Argentina S.A. He works with Edmonton Consultant Engineers. They have two daughters, Maureen and Micheal.

Dolores is an R.N. and she and her husband, Dr. James Franklin live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dolores's two daughters by a previous marriage Barbara and Patti are both also with them.

Harry's wife, Lena, now resides in Edmonton, where she and her sister Elsie Fraedrich share an apartment.

MARK A. MCKAIN by Mark McKain

I was working in Turner Valley with oil in my hair and gas in my stomach when I upped and joined the army October 6, 1942.

I went overseas on the Queen Elizabeth that carried 29,000 army, 29,000 airforce, 800 nurses and a staff of 1,100 and arrived in England in April of 1943.

On June the 10 we were loaded on a boat bound for the invasion of Sicily. We got off the boat July 10 on the shores of Sicily, and went into action with the 49th Edmonton Regiment.

July 25, 1943, I was injured, hit on the knee with a German potato masher, known as a German handgrenade. Three months later I joined the regiment in Italy. Going up through the toe of Italy, through the olive orchards I saw slavery for the first time in southern Italy.

On December 1943, was wounded again when an 88 shell landed under the truck we were riding in. Fifteen of the eighteen in the truck were killed, I was sent down the line again with shock and my ears blasted. But in two and one-half months I was back again in the best of shape looking for souvenirs and surprises. We were then known as the Loyal Edmonton Regiment.

I had two leaves and went to Berry, Italy the first time, and then to Rome. When the war was on there was a blackout in cities at night, but in Rome the lights were left on as it was declared an open city. It was nice to see after having a blackout all the time. Returning back to the regiment which was in Ortona, Italy we started to advance up to the front lines going up through the dikes in 1944.

There were eighteen of us in a house when the Germans hit the house with their S.P. guns setting off one of our anti-tank mines killing one man, wounding fifteen, one of them myself, it blew the pants off me and tore my legs all up. Down the lines I went again and spent two months in the hospital in Rome and then back to England in the hospital in Birmingham with both legs in casts up to the hips. After spending six weeks there I came home by hospital boat and then by hospital train to Calgary in March of 1945.

I was on crutches from March until July and then with a cane until November. I was sent from Calgary to the Colonel Mewburn Pavilion Hospital for another operation on my legs. As a result from injuries I have one dead foot, and one partially deaf ear. At the present time I have four sons, one in University taking Commerce, one in grade 12, one working for the CN, and one finishing grade 9.

HARRY AND JOYCE MCKAIN

Some of the first settlers in the Kevisville district were Shannons, and McKains. In fact since they raised large families Kevisville was a large part Shannons and McKains so it was probably inevitable that sooner or later they would intermarry. This didn't occur until June 1945 when Harry McKain, second son of Harry McKain Sr., and Joyce Shannon, eldest daughter of Harry Shannon were married.

Harry was handy with a hammer and saw, so one of his first tasks as a newly married man was to build a small two room house. This house sat on his Dad's place for the first year while Harry worked out and helped his dad on the farm. In 1946 they bought SW19-35-3-W5. Mr. Geo. Nissen had recently bought this quarter at a tax sale for \$350.00 but when he heard Harry and Joyce were interested in the land he kindly sold it to them at no profit, probably partly because they were young and partly because this quarter was originally Joyce's grandfather's homestead (Rasmus Jensen). They moved their little house on to this quarter and it is still their home but Harry has made three additions to it. This farm is located half a mile south of Kevisville church. An old house, the only building on it they converted into a barn and used until 1963 when they built a new one. Harry worked hard building up his farm that hadn't been farmed for years. There were fences to put in and buildings to construct. He took some of his dad's cattle on a share calves basis. He milked cows and raised pigs working together with his dad, using his dad's machinery until he could get his own. This took time but Harry being the ambitious person he is has done well. The Kevisville store and post-office were only half a mile away. Most of their grocery shopping was done by walking or using horse and wagon or sleigh for the first three years until they could afford a car. Their first car was an old Model A.

In 1946 their son Robert was born, to be followed by daughter Marilyn, then son Gerald and just to make sure of a chore boy in their old age, Brian in 1966.

Joyce and Harry's nearest neighbors were Pete Ebbesen, his wife and sons Carl and George who, in

1946, rented the farm across the road. Many an enjoyable hour was spent in visiting over a cup of coffee between these two families. In the winter of 1946-47 Harry and Pete Ebbesen and sons took out a setting of logs on Harry's place. While helping with the sawing Joyce's dad was killed in an accident leaving her mother with eleven children to raise.

Kevisville has changed since Harry and Joyce started farming in 1945. Much land has been cleared. The roads are one of the biggest improvements. Good all weather roads have been made where once it seemed impossible and four miles north is number 54 paved highway. One of the biggest boosts to country living was the Calgary Power line put through in 1954. Joyce like all the farm wives was more than glad to say good-bye to coal oil, and gas lamps that needed to be filled with gas, pumped with air, with mantles to replace whenever an unfortunate insect flew through one. What a treat to have a quiet dependable electric motor on a washing machine after having used one of those noisy temperamental gas engines that only worked when Harry was in the house and quit the minute he was out of sight. To be able to turn on the radio without worrying about running down those expensive battery packs and keeping food cool or frozen in a fridge or deep freezer were also great conveniences. Harry was happy to say good-bye to smoky lanterns that were forever needing coal oil and switch on yard and barn lights at chore time.

This was followed by television and propane furnaces with no more wood to bring in and ashes to carry out. Harry soon installed a water pressure system and later completed plumbing. He did most of the work himself and has since assisted many of the neighbors with their plumbing installations.

Bob and Marilyn first attended school at Red Raven in the same school their parents and maternal grandparents had attended. Three generations had left its mark on the old place. The centralization of schools meant pupils were bussed to Dickson and later to a large new school at Spruce View. Since Bob left school he has worked for the Department of Highways at a cat. operator. Marilyn graduated from Spruce View High School and from Nursing Aide School in Calgary. In January 1969 she was married to Stan Simpson. They reside in Innisfail. Gerry and Brian are still at home growing up in the community their great grandfathers helped to settle back at the beginning of the century.

RAYMOND MCKAIN

Raymond McKain came to the district with his parents in 1907. Elizabeth (Betty) Wright came from Scotland with her parents to Red Deer in 1911. Raymond and Betty met when Betty came to teach the Red Raven school. They were married in November 1923, and Raymond took over the Red Raven store from Arthur and Nellie Lenox and bought the quarter section it was situated on. Raymond also did considerable trucking. In 1935 Mr. Kevis died and the Kevisville post office was moved from the Kevis

home to the store and was operated in conjunction with it as long as both were open. In 1937 a new larger store with living quarters at the rear was built. Lester and Raymond did much of the work on it. In 1939 Raymond and Earl Benson started a saw mill on the timber berth in the Ricinus area. It was intended that Earl would oversee this while Raymond looked after the store. However Earl died in 1941. When Raymond and Betty found the operation too much to handle in 1944 they sold the store business and leased the buildings to Geo. Oliver. The latter lived to run the business only a short time. In 1946 Melvin Ross bought the stock from the Geo. Oliver estate and the store buildings from Raymond. In the interim Betty had moved with Raymond to the mill site. They kept the mill until 1948 when they moved back to their land in the Kevisville district. They bought a farm in the Markerville area in 1952 and moved onto it. They sold this farm in the fall of 1960 and the next year started a store in Markerville. In January 1963 they sold the Markerville Store to Ken Rhodes. In 1964 they bought a home in Innisfail and retired there February 7, Raymond's birthday. After their marriage Betty returned to her profession of teaching at intervals for various periods of time. She taught in Innisfail after they moved there. Raymond and Betty have one daughter Betty. She married Arthur Gledhill and lives in Calgary. The Gledhills have two daughters Carol and Arlene, both married, and one son Raymond Arthur. Raymond passed away in 1968. Betty resides in Innisfail.

CECIL McKAIN

Cecil McKain lived with his parents Mr. and Mrs. R.J. McKain until they retired to Kevisville corner in 1937. He took over the farm and has continued to farm it. Cecil is the only member of the original pioneer R.J. McKain family still living in this district. In 1941 Cecil married Helen Leckie of the Mound district. They have two sons Glenn and Donald. Glenn married Elaine Herber daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Herber of the Stauffer district. They have a daughter Lynn and a son Leigh. Glenn works as road construction foreman in various parts of the province. They have a trailer home and much of the time they live in Cecil and Helen's yard. When it is practical Glenn moves the trailer to where he is working so Elaine and the children can be with him. Donald married Emma Bourgeois from Barrhead. They have a daughter Renne and a son Trevor. They live in Calgary where Donald is a chef.

Surrounded by a clump of large spruce trees, on a knoll on Cecil's home quarter is a small cemetery. It dates back to the time Dan Davis owned the land. It contains three graves. A Bailey baby (the inscription on the stone can still be read) — and R.J. McKain's young seven year old son Clifford killed in a shooting accident were both buried there in 1911. The first grave, probably that of Dan Davis' sister was there prior to 1909.

ARTHUR & NELLIE MYNOTT

Born in 1880, and raised on an old country farm near London, England, Pearson Arthur Mynott could

not resist the urge to "go west young man". Consequently in 1906 he set sail for America, where he travelled and worked in both the United States and Canada. He finally decided to take up a homestead in the Kevisville district.

Summers were occupied with clearing and breaking land, putting up log buildings, et cetera. Winter time provided a little more leisure time, and then too, the Red Deer River was frozen over so that he could visit his neighbors on the other side. He found a close friend in Mr. Fred Tingle who also had come out from England, and had homesteaded, married and had two small sons. Tragedy had struck and Mr. **Tingle's wife had become ill and passed away leaving him a widower with two sons to raise.**

One day these two friends were discussing their fate, when Mr. Tingle announced, "My niece is coming out from Sheffield to visit me, along with her aunt." Mr. Mynott replied, "What a coincidence — my sister is also coming out; let's trade." So all unknown to the unsuspecting ladies, in due time Miss Mynott became Mrs. Tingle, and Miss Tingle became Mrs. Mynott in spite of the marital complications like an uncle becoming a brother-in-law, and a niece becoming an aunt to her cousins.

Arthur Mynott and Nellie Tingle were married in November 1911 — a rather unique couple — he being well over six feet and she only four-foot-two. No wonder after the very cold trip to Bowden by ox-drawn sleigh to get married, the station agent said, "Bring your little daughter in to warm herself." Needless to say they accepted the invitation, although Nellie was highly indignant. Many times after this, Nellie was taken for the little girl around the house, but she would invariably draw herself up to her full height, stamp her foot and say, "I am the lady of the house."

They gradually built up their farm, changing from oxen to horses to tractor. The homestead was sold a few years later, and they purchased a half section of land nearby.

Nellie and Arthur raised a family of three daughters and one son, who now are all married. At the time of this writing, Ethelwyn (Mrs. Arthur Cornell) and Winnifred (Mrs. Leonard Holroyd) are living in Calgary. Nellie (Mrs. Elbert Holroyd) is living in Rocky Mountain House, and James, the son, is living at Merritt, B.C.

During the depression of the 1930's, Arthur Mynott found it necessary to give up one quarter section of his land. Somehow, he managed to eke out a living on the remaining quarter section and was just beginning to reap the fruit of his many years of hard labor when he was stricken with a heart condition, and in 1945 found it necessary to retire to Innisfail to be near medical aid. They resided in Innisfail for ten years before Arthur passed away in 1955.

Nellie continued to live alone in Innisfail for another five years, until in 1960 she moved to Calgary to live with her daughter, Ethelwyn. In 1968, Nellie also passed away, thus ending the era of two of

Kevisville's old pioneers who knew what it meant to start on a homestead with very little of this world's goods, and pit their strength and wits against the elements and eventually win, tho' perhaps not in the abundance of what this world has to offer materially, but in a life of enjoyment in accomplishment against difficulties, of knowing neighbors who were working in the same way and with whom they had bonds of friendship and loyalty seldom equaled in the affluence of so-called better times.

MARTIN PEDERSEN

Martin Pedersen came as a very small child with his parents from Denmark to the United States. They moved to Didsbury in 1929 and also lived at Olds. Annie Ziegler was born near Torrington. Martin and Annie were married in 1935. They lived in Calgary, Didsbury and Torrington before coming to the Kevisville district to SE13-35-4-5.

They have five children. Shirley, (Mrs. Robert Stewart) has four children and lives at Wainwright. Derald married Irene Mayberry. They have 3 children and live at Cremona. Ralph has land in the Crammond district. Vernon married Marie Henderson. They live at Madden and have one daughter. Lyle works with his father on the farm.



Martin Pedersen.

RICKARDS

Melvin Rickard came to the Innisfail district from Oregon in 1912. His mother had been one of the first white women to drive over a newly opened trail into Oregon. Mary Biggs came to Innisfail as a small girl with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Biggs. They settled east of Innisfail. Chas Biggs was American and his wife Norwegian. Mr. Biggs had no opportunity to attend school until he was twenty-one. Then he went to night school and became a teacher. In Alberta he

farmed but did not teach. There was no school east of Innisfail where the Biggs farmed until a number of years after they arrived. Mary never went to school but did learn to read.

Melvin Rickard and Mary Biggs were married in 1914. On July 2, 1916 Mary Rickard went out to get the cows and was caught in a severe thunderstorm. She was walking between two poplar trees when she was struck by lightning. Her clothes were stripped completely off leaving her naked. Shreds of her clothing were driven as much as three feet into the ground. She was left stunned and deaf, and never recovered her hearing. Mary still has remnants of clothing she wore that day - the jagged rim of her hat, the sole and back seam of a rubber boot and twisted corset stays.

In 1919 the Melvin Rickard family moved to Red Raven district and settled on the old Clark place, NE36-35-4-5, two miles north of the Red Raven School. They lived in several different locations in the Red Raven and Crooked Creek districts before purchasing the NE25-35-4-5. In 1928 Melvin Rickard returned to the United States and Mary Rickard continued to make her home on the farm with the family. The Rickard children attended Crooked Creek and Red Raven schools.

Ralph "Buck" Rickard lives at home with his mother. In addition to farming the home place he has land in the Crammond district. Until the winter works program was discontinued, Ralph was boss over the men clearing brush on the road allowances in this part of the county. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Ordinance Corp during the second world war and spent two and one-half years in England, Holland and Germany. He has served for several years as a member of the Gwendale Community Hall board. He is always willing to lend a neighbor a helping hand. Ralph remembers when in 1919 one could go through a gate on the old Clark place and ride west to the mountains with no fences to interfere. Carl Andersen's place at Crammond was the only one completely fenced. Along with other residents of the district at that time, Ralph vividly recalls the fire of March 3, 1931 and its tragic results.

Mabel married Louis Shannon and lives in the district. June married Ronald Olmstead. They live at Claresholm where he is on the road patrol. Their family are Gordon, Violet, Lyle, Virginia and Wesley. Sam lived at home with his mother and brother Ralph, until his death in May of 1963. During the war, he served with the Nova Scotia Highlanders but was not overseas. Vesta married Jules Blum. They live in Bellingham, Washington. Their daughter Carol is married and a teacher. Their son Bobby, as a student, was an outstanding track star at Oregon College. Mary married Jess Kenoyer. They have two sons Jeffery and Chet. The Kenoyers also live in Bellingham. Melvin is married and lives with his family in California.

MORRIS ROBB

Morris Robb was born in Nova Scotia in 1908. He came west to Alberta on a harvest train in 1932, and

stayed in the Munson area. In the spring of 1933, he came with the Cecil Andrews family to Kevissville. He bought property from Chas. Baynham north of Kevissville and lived there for a time. In 1942 he bought the farm formerly owned by Steve Benson at the Kevissville corner.

Miriam Hall was born at Butte and attended Clear Creek and Rocky schools. Miriam Shannon (widow of the late Jack Shannon) with her small son Everett came to work at the Kevissville store. A few years later, August 1945, Morris and Miriam were married. They have one daughter. Beverly is an electroencephalograph technician and works in a hospital in New Westminster, B.C. Everett is manager of a branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Edmonton. He married Elvina Fingstad of Melfort, Saskatchewan. They have two sons and a daughter.

RAY SAISBURY AND RALPH WALTEMATH

Ray and Faye Saisbury were born and raised in Bozeman, Montana. They were married there, November, 1925. They have one daughter Irma. They moved to Clyde, Alberta late in 1930. In 1943, Irma Saisbury and Ralph Waltemath were married. In 1945, both couples moved to Bassano where they farmed together for three years. They dried out there, so they moved to the Kevissville district where they purchased adjoining quarters. Saisburys bought raw bush land from the Hudson Bay Company and Waltemath bought the Fred McIntosh land. The two families lived together on Ralph's place while Ray and Ralph logged enough timber from the bush quarter for Saisbury's buildings. Martin Larsen sawed the lumber. They used mostly rough lumber but they had Verner Nielsen plane the finishing lumber. Ray and Ralph built both buildings on Ray's quarter and dug a good well. They took several settings of logs off their land and built a new home for Ralph's family. Ralph and Irma Waltemath have two daughters, Linda and Patricia.

Ray spent winter evenings on his hobby of carving miniature horses from odd blocks of wood. He also made little saddles for the horses from soft shoe leather. These were exact replicas, even to the cinch, of the large western saddles. These small wooden horses were very life like. A snapshot taken of a group of them set on the snow with a fence in the distance is so realistic, the viewer expects them to move out of the picture. Ray has not kept up with the carvings but he enjoys drawing.

Ray and Faye moved to the Arrowhead ranch where they worked for six years, then moved to Red Deer where Ralph and Irma had gone earlier.

FRANK AND ANNIE SIEBERT

Frank Siebert was born and raised in the Evergreen district. He served in the army from 1943 to 1945. Frank married Annie Brownlee, October 23, 1943.

While Frank was in the army Annie lived at home. When they purchased the SW1/4-13-4-5-35 the house was in poor shape so they worked on it at odd times and stayed at Colin Brownlee's. They often rode Ribbon, a faithful white horse, to and from their new

home. One morning Ribbon snorted and pawed and was reluctant to enter the yard. Frank and Annie found a large bear had chewed the window sill and cross bar on the top half of the window. They puttied it over but the marks still showed several years later. A cream can out in the yard was crushed. Shortly afterward Frank and Annie were sleeping in the barn loft until the house was ready. One night horses in the barn were snorting — the bear was around again. Annie's frightened query was, "Will he come up here?"

Not far from the house is a very good spring. Ducks stayed all winter in the open water below the spring. Siebert's kept their cream in a covered box in the spring. Farther down in the stream where footing was better, a hole was chopped in the ice so the cattle could drink. A large bull frog was a permanent resident in the spring box but made regular trips under ground to the water hole.

In 1954 Frank got work in Red Deer and shortly afterwards Annie followed him there. Frank's brother Martin looked after the stock until spring when Frank held an auction sale and the family settled permanently in Red Deer. Frank and Annie have three children, Richard, Rosemary and Darrel. The Sieberts recently moved to B.C.

ROBERT SHANNON Sr.

Robert Shannon was born in Toronto, Ontario on November 11, 1858. He came west to Calgary in 1888 but lived at High River until 1894. When he heard the Raven country was a good place for cattle with plenty of feed and water he moved here. The country was not surveyed until the fall of 1901. So Bob established himself as a squatter on his choice of land. Olds was the town where he did his trading. His post office was Red Lodge — in the vicinity of the present Red Lodge Park. Between Bob Shannon's home and Olds were three rivers: the Raven, Big Red Deer and Little Red Deer, but no bridges. During dry weather all rivers could be forded but during the long wet periods common then, the Big Red could create a real problem. Bob Shannon handled this in a unique way. He drove a light wagon and kept a boat at the river. When he could not ford he dismantled the wagon, made several trips to take it across in the boat, swam the horses over and re-assembled the outfit on the far side. Bob had Indian friends and never failed to bring them a gift of tobacco from town. It was not unusual for him to find these friends waiting in his cabin when he returned from a trip to Olds. Bob's brother lived on a ranch, on land now within Calgary city limits.

Bob would ride horseback to Calgary to visit his brother. He would make the trip in a day. Bob had been a rider for Pat Burns before moving here.

Lucy Ann Deans was born in 1885. She was the first white baby girl to be born in Calgary. Later she lived with her family at Olds.

The fall of 1901 was an important time for Robert Shannon. The survey was put through and he homesteaded the land on which he was living — SW32-35-3-5. He located his buildings near the Raven river along what should have been a road

allowance. However because of difficult terrain the road was never built. It is only in recent years the Shannons have enjoyed an all weather road to their home. Even more important than the survey to Bob Shannon was his marriage on October third to Lucy Deans. Today, with our close neighbors, telephones and fast transportation we can have little idea of the courage and pluck of a teenage bride to come with her husband to such a lonely and isolated spot. The nearest neighbors who spoke English lived west of Olds. It would be two or three years before other families settled in this area.

When Bob moved to this district he moved his cattle with him, driving them from Calgary. He chose his homestead site because the Raven river furnished water and there was open grassland for grazing and hay. His first brand was double diamond. In those first years no grain was grown and only an occasional pig raised for butchering. The story is told of once when Bob Shannon sold cattle, drove them to Olds and shipped from there. Some way Deans' very choice milk cow got in with Bob's cattle and was loaded and shipped to Calgary. When the mistake was discovered Bob offered to buy the cow but Mr. Deans refused to sell. The difficulty was overcome when the cow was shipped back to Olds with a box car all to herself.

Bob and Lucy's son, Harry was born in 1902. He died in 1947 as the result of a saw mill accident. Bob, their second son, married Bernice Cave and continued to live in the district. Their eldest daughter, Lettie married Roy Harper. They live in Ennerdale district, north west of Olds. They have two children. Marion married Paul Watamaniuk. They have two children and live in Edmonton. Bob married Mary Leatherdale from Olds, they have one boy. Bob works for the Bank of Montreal and is at present living in Sundre. Jack married Miriam Hall and had one son Everette. Jack died in a fire in 1941. Louis married Mabel Rickard. They live on the home place. Joe was born in 1911 and still lives in the district. Effie moved to California and passed away there in 1951. Margaret married Phillip Miller. They have lived at College Heights, Alberta. Tom married Rosamon Fredericksen and had two sons. He moved to Caroline and passed away in 1965. Louise married Bruce Cressman, moved to Caroline and later to Red Deer. She passed away in 1962. Borden married Audrey Andersen and died in 1953. Garfield died as an infant. Wallace married Doreen Chapin and is living in Rosedale.

Taking care of her family was a full time job for Lucy Shannon. She baked bread every few days and used a hundred pound sack of flour a week. The older grandchildren remember their grandmother telling them that in the early days Indians often came to the house to ask for tea and tobacco. At first the family lived in a log house which was replaced about 1909 by a large frame dwelling. This home had a big kitchen and community dances were sometimes held there. Ben Lee and Charles Baynham often furnished the music with their violins. At times Frank Roberts assisted them.

Lucy Shannon passed away in 1945 and Robert Shannon in 1953.

HARRY SHANNON SR. FAMILY by Sine Shannon

On March 26, 1924 I, Sine Jensen, was married to Harry Shannon at the home of my parents Mr. and Mrs. Rasmus Jensen at Kevisville. We had very little to start life with except our love and an optimistic outlook on life.

We had a small wedding with just the immediate family present. My sister Ester was matron of honor and her husband Frank Roberts best man. With Frank we rented the Arthur Johnson place and farmed together there. As so often happens with a partnership, it did not work out and Harry and I moved to Ralph Benson's farm where we depended mostly on cutting and selling tamarack poles. While we were there Joyce was born. In the next few years we moved from place to place in the district. In 1926 Norman was born. I was at my mother's home and she brought him into the world. After that it seemed almost every year brought another baby. Until Iris was born in Calgary with a doctor in attendance mother acted as midwife at the births of all the older children.

With a large family and very little money it wasn't easy but as the children often remark now "We didn't have much money but we surely had fun." We somehow survived the hungry thirties. In fact we went on welfare which amounted to the "huge" sum of \$12.00 a month. It was during this time that Olga and Rod Campbell and family moved in to be our neighbors. We became close friends and had some wonderful times together.

In 1940 my mother passed away. My dad had predeceased her. We all missed my mother very much - I still miss her.

At this time we bought the H.P. Westergaard homestead at a tax sale. It really wasn't too much as a farm so Harry had to work out in order to keep things going. We were very happy there and no matter where I or the children go I'm sure no place will be as dear to us as that old log house where the children grew up and had such wonderful times. Kenny was born while we lived there and there were eleven in our family.

One by one the older children began to leave home. On June 23, 1945 Joyce married Harry McKain Jr.

Six months later Leslie was born to make our family an even dozen. When Leslie was a year old Harry was fatally injured in a saw mill accident and I was left alone with the children. However there wasn't time to think too much about myself. Norman took over the farm and we carried on as best we could. The kindness of friends and neighbors was a great comfort and I had widows compensation so financially we were provided for. Norman had been in the army and had a veterans grant coming which we used to get brush cutting and breaking done.

On October 26, 1948 Eileen married Vic Jensen. They live in Innisfail and have four children.

Then it seemed every year brought another wedding. On May 13, 1950 Julia married Bill Fassnidge of Calgary. They have three children.

Phyllis was married to Lloyd Kinsella of Innisfail on December 8, 1951. In 1963 Lloyd was killed in a car accident. Phyllis was left with five children and a few months later their youngest child was born. Being a brave girl with plenty of courage Phyllis carried on with the farm where she still lives.

Violet married Bob Oxamitny on September 17, 1952. They have three children and live in Edmonton. Norman married Mary Black of Caroline on November 11, 1953. They are at Drumheller and have a family of seven. Iris married Ray Foster on July 11, 1957. They have four children and live in Edmonton. Ray was killed in a car accident in 1971. March 16, 1958 Howard married Alice Lanaway, a local girl. He works part time on the oil rigs. Howard and Alice live and farm in this district. They have a son and three daughters. On April 9, 1960, Ronald married May Bercht of Calgary. They have two children and live in Edmonton. The same month, April 30, Gloria married Eugene Nagel. They live near Valley View and have two sons. In May 1965 I moved to an apartment in Innisfail but have since returned to my home in the Kevisville district. On April 30, 1966 Kennie married Jeanine Fossey of Lloydminster, Sask., and is now living in Calgary. They have two sons.

On March 4, 1967 Leslie was married to Ingrid Raun of Spruce View. They have three children.

ROBERT SHANNON

Bernice Cave, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cave, was brought up in the Raven district. Robert Shannon and Bernice Cave were married in February 1929 in Innisfail. Since that time they have lived on their farm SE32-35-3-5 in the Kevisville district. They have three children. Their only daughter, Mary, married Clarence Chapin. They have two sons and five daughters and live in Canmore. Elmer married Agnes McKay and moved to Parsons, B.C. Elmer and Agnes were both killed in a car accident in 1963. They had four children, Donald and Elaine now make their home with their grandparents. Cheryl and Lorna live with their uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. Roy Shannon.

Roy married Margaret Hill in June 1962. They have three children, Gordon, Gail and Raymond. Roy lived for several years in the Dickson district but farmed on his own and his father's land in the Kevisville district. He has now purchased land in the New Raven district and lives on it.

LOUIS SHANNON

Louis Shannon and Mabel Rickard both grew up in the Red Raven district. Louis and Mabel were married April 22, 1939. They live on the original Shannon homestead. Stanley, their eldest son married Marilyn Fiel and lives in Snohomish, Washington. Darlene married Gerry Gray. They have two sons and a daughter and live in Whitehorse, Yukon. Robert Louis "Bobby" married Eleanor Myson. They have two girls and a boy: Debbie, Shiela and Kevin.

They live in the Spruce View area. Venie is working in Red Deer and Dennis is still at home.

W.J. SMITH

Jim and Ruby Smith, their twins Jack and Vera and baby Charlie came to Kevisville from England in the winter of 1930-31. Jim worked for various farmers and then for Mr. Fred Schultz on the Gwendale ranch. While working at the Gwendale ranch Jim bought the S.E. 1/4 of 17-35-4-5 directly west of the ranch. In the evenings and on Sundays Jim, with the help of his son Jack, cut logs and built a house on his own place. Wages were small — about one dollar a day. In April 1932 the Smith's second daughter Peggy was born in Innisfail. The roads were bare for the trip in but a late snow storm blocked them and it was sixteen days before Mrs. Smith could get home. She finally made the trip in the back of Jess Sainbourne's truck. She sat on an old car seat with rugs wrapped around herself and baby Peggy. The roads were mud and slush — so bad it took from 4:30 P.M. until 1 A.M. to make the trip. In 1933 the Smith family moved onto their own place. They were the proud possessors of one cow and calf. Jim continued to work for Mr. Shultz while he cleared land of his own. They experienced hard times but gradually got some land cleared and more livestock. In the next ten years three more children Joyce, Jimmy and Freda were born. Freda's arrival one spring was a never to be forgotten experience for her parents. They left home with horse and buggy to take Ruby to Innisfail hospital. Bad roads delayed them so they only reached Spruce View. Freda was born with the help of Mrs. Christensen. The doctor also came from Innisfail. Mother and baby went on to the hospital in Innisfail but Ruby caught a cold and was very sick.

In 1944 the Smith's celebrated their silver wedding with a dance in Crooked Creek school. In 1969 Jim and Ruby again had reason to celebrate as it was a very special occasion — their golden wedding. There was a family dinner, open house, a dance and, from the community, a gift. Their children are all married and Jim and Ruby are grandparents and great-grandparents. Jack married Joyce Hoffman. Jack and his wife have a trailer in his parents' yard. He farms with his father. Vera married Harry Fifield. They have six children. Harry was killed in the same car accident that took Borden Shannon's life. Vera later married George Day. They have one son and live in Sundre. Charlie married Marie Johnson. They have four children and farm a short distance from Charlie's parents. Peggy is Mrs. Tom Cunningham, has eight children and lives at Dovercourt. Joyce married Alfred Pankiewich. They have five children and live at Hinton. Jim married Louise Tredwin. They have four children. They have land near Charlie and Marie. Freda married Jim Myer. They have two children and live at Caroline. Jim Smith has been active in community life, especially in the affairs of the Gwendale hall.

RICH HILL

RICH HILL GENERAL HISTORY

Rich Hill district was named when the school was opened in 1914 but had been settled earlier. Frolander homesteaded NW34-4-5 and built a cabin. Ruben Rambo took up the SW34-4-5, proved the cabin was on his land and claimed it. Rambo had an outside source of income. He seldom worked but owned one of the first cars and was glad to offer rides. Once when a horse drowned in the Red Deer river he took his boat to retrieve the halter. The boat was upset by an overhanging branch and he was rescued from the upturned craft. Edgar Johnson bought the Frolander place and moved onto it with his family. Shortly afterwards his wife died. The Garfield Thompson family arrived about 1906. Garfield named the Rich Hill school after his home in North Carolina and was secretary-treasurer for several years. Garfield was an ardent fisherman, a warden, and was instrumental in starting the Raven Fish Rearing Station and was in charge of it till he retired. Holbrooks took over the farm the Thompson's were on. Nels Kolding came to the SW12-35-4-5 in 1909 with his wife and sons, Ezra, Wallace and James. On a visit home to the U.S. Mrs. Kolding died. A friend, Mrs. Johnson raised the boys. Ezra lives in California. Kolding lived alone for many years on the farm. He was an eccentric man of many occupations, a good story teller and was secretary-treasurer of the Rich Hill school. Swan Starkane homesteaded SW36-35-4-5. About 1914 the Fred Camerons bought the land. Their family are Everett, Elbert, Leslie and Shirley. Camerons sold to Sam Robertson about 1925. Ten years later, Neil and Nelly Olmstead purchased the land and lived here until they retired to Calgary in 1963. In August 1961 they celebrated their golden wedding with a gathering of friends in the Kevisville church. Ronald married June Rickard and is at Claresholm. Glen married Theresa Laurendeau and has five children. Wayne and wife Ruth are at Claresholm. Chas. Roberts and family came to the SE14-35-4-5. They had four children, Frank, Bill, Ernie and "Babe". Frank married Esther Jensen and continued to live here. He played in the local ball team and played the violin for dances. Babe Redford inherited the farm from her parents and sold to John and Clara Schmick. The Schmick girls are: Edna married to James Dolphin and has 3 boys, living at Raven; Florence McKay has four children and lives in Carstairs; Shirley McKinnon at Cremona has one boy; Marjory Andersen at Carstairs has four children and Betty lives in Calgary. John Schmick was a school trustee. The day they arrived mud made roads impassible. They left their belongings at a neighbors and continued on. Mrs. Schmick disliked the country at first but learned to love it. They moved to Carstairs.

Earl Livingston, a bachelor was an early settler, buying SE34-34-4-5 and lived here many years - died recently. On his land is a small cemetery carefully fenced. Mrs. Jefferies, Mrs. Edgar Johnson and Con-

nie Aldridge are buried there. Hugo and Jessie Berghaus came to the area in 1925. Hugo did blacksmith work. They had six children - Darrel, Jack, Loretta, Phyllis, Joyce and Vernice, all living in the U.S. They left in 1946 selling to Rod Campbell who sold to Louis Dahms. Jack and Sylvia Current lived on land joining the Berghaus', Sylvia's brother. The first rainy night Currents spent in the old house on their place they were awakened by water dripping into their faces. They put two umbrellas over the bed and went back to sleep. They took an active part in all community affairs and Sylvia sold the farm to Gordon Bosley after Jack died. Sylvia lives in Red Deer. Gordon and Vi Bosley came in 1964. Gordon works at the Garrington gas plant and farms. They have four children - Gary, Connie, Jeffrey and Michele.

Don McMurtry and his brother Dave wintered cattle on his present farm before Don and his wife Bernadette purchased the land in 1951 from Lester Johnson. They have one son Billy at home. Bernie passed away in 1957. Bill Fifield and Elise Christensen were married and came to his farm in 1933. Lisa remembers when she and nine month old Eileen spent a few days with her parents. Bill brought a load of posts to Olds, so Lisa and Eileen rode home on a plank on the running gear. When they stopped at the ferry to feed the baby they found her bottle broken. They picked up a discarded bottle, washed it at the river and fed Eileen.

They have four children. Eileen married Walter Hanna, lives at Evarts and has 2 girls - Debra and Leora. Marjory Sam is at Slave Lake. Her family are Darwin and Roxanne. June Bannister at Rainbow Lake - has a boy Kim and a girl Lita. Orville has been confined to a wheel chair since he was in a car accident as a young man. He's married and lives in Edmonton. Bill Fifield passed away and Lisa married Lyle Whiteside. She resides in Red Deer. Max and Emma Olsen bought the farm from her mother — Mrs. Chris Anderson and lived there several years. They and their children, Shirley, Glen, Steve, Harvey and Debbie all live in Calgary. Their oldest son Norman was killed in a car accident at Stettler. John and Joan Johnston bought the farm from Max and Emma in 1961. Their family are: Sharon, Larry, Terry, Phillip, Eugene, Patrick and Barbara.

RICH HILL SCHOOL NO. 2817

The Rich Hill school was built in 1913 by the families in the district, on land donated by C.F. House NE 35-4-W5. Native lumber was used and the furnishings were bought. The area was named "Rich Hill" by Garfield Thompson.

The first school board consisted of Garfield Thompson, N.H. Kolding, and Mr. McHale. The first pupils were Edna, Grace, Gertrude, and Vera House, Alfred Wolf, Marjorie Gibb, Everett Cameron and a brother, Monroe Bear who lived with the Camerons, Dorothy Hanson, Edna and Bill Thompson, David and Maggie Johnson.

The first teacher was Donald Muir.

The Rich Hill school was closed in 1957 and the children were bussed to Dickson. The school was sold privately.

MADS C. ANDERSEN

Mads Christian Andersen was born in Denmark in 1879. Ane Kirstine Christensen was born in Denmark in 1880. They were married there in 1901 and had a son and two daughters. Frederick was only two years old when he was killed when struck by the blade of a windmill. They came to Canada on an immigrant ship in 1909. Conditions on these ships were extremely bad. Passengers were very crowded and disease was prevalent. The Andersen's baby daughter took diphtheria and died shortly after they landed in New York. When passengers were disembarked men and women were separated and Mrs. Andersen was quarantined with the children. She could speak no English and it was about two weeks before she saw her husband again. The men's quarters were not clean, with lice and disease all around.

They came directly to Olds with their small daughter, Astrid and worked on several farms. During this time a second daughter Anna Christine was born. About 1912, they moved to the Dickson district and rented a farm. Alfred was born there. In 1914, they moved to a homestead on SE7-35-3-5. The land had been taken up previously and let go back, so there was a house on it. Agnes was born in this district, she died as a small child. Mrs. Andersen took her little daughter to the doctor in Innisfail. The doctor tried to explain what was wrong with the child but Mrs. Andersen still could not understand enough English to follow him, so she never knew the cause of the death.



Steam engine. Anna Andersen, Mrs. Chris Andersen and Ruby Andersen.

Two more daughters, Emma and Meta were born in the next few years. In 1923, Chris Andersen was visiting his brother-in-law at Nobleford when he contracted typhoid fever. He returned home just before harvest and died soon after.

Mrs. Andersen stayed on the farm with the family. Their home was a two storey farm home with a stove pipe running up from the kitchen. One Sunday morning during the winter of 1924, the stove pipe caught fire. They thought the fire was completely out and the family all went to church and when they returned the

house had burned to the ground. They lived with Lundgrens while the neighbors helped build a small dwelling. The house was insured so this money was used to build a permanent home. Astrid married Rasmus Shriver and now lives at Tilley, Alberta. They have five sons and two daughters. Anna married Donald Demenuk and lives in Caroline where she has taught school for many years. Alfred married Ruby Holroyd and lives in the district. Emma married Max Olsen and lives in Calgary, they have three boys and two girls. They have lost one boy and a daughter. Meta married Allan Benson. They have one son and live in this district. Mrs. Andersen died at the age of 71 years in 1951.

ALFRED ANDERSEN

Alfred Andersen grew up in the Kevisville district and attended Rich Hill School. Ruby Holroyd was born at Suffield, Alberta and came to this area in 1924 when she was eight years old, with her parents, two brothers and two sisters. Alfred and Ruby were married in 1937 in the little log church at Raven. For six years they lived with Alfred's mother on her place. Their oldest daughter arrived on Christmas day as a very special Christmas present in 1941.



Alfred Andersen and sisters going to school.

They moved to their farm (SW7-35-3-5) adjoining Mrs. Andersen's farm. Their second daughter Norma Jean was born on January 28, 1946.

In 1954, they moved into their new modern home on a new location on the same quarter section. Exactly one week later, Calgary power was turned on. Ruby and Alfred are both active in community affairs, and Alfred has been president of the Credit Union for several years. They both enjoy curling.

Elva married Ronald Medin, they live in Hanna, Alberta where Ron is manager of the U.F.A. Co-op. They have two sons and one daughter. Norma Jean married Egan Jensen. They live in Calgary where Egan works for Shell Oil and Norma Jean works as a legal stenographer for Total Petroleum.

MEL COPELAND

Mel Copeland came west from Toronto in 1905. Cora Powell was born in Bowden, Alberta. Cora and Mel were married in 1915 and lived first in Calgary and then in White Creek and Cottonwood districts. They moved to the Kevisville district about 1950 to the Charlie Roberts place. They had two daughters —

Mary married Angus Brownlee and Cletta married Frank Hudson. Mel Copeland died in 1955. Mrs. Cora Copeland later married Guy Powell and moved to Sidney, B.C. Her foster son, David Jackson took over the farm. David married Margaret Reberger and they have four daughters and one son. The eldest daughter, Marion, married John Berry, has one son and lives in Calgary. Christine works in Calgary and Linda, Gust and Diane are at home going to school.

LOUIS E. DAHMS

Louis Dahms, born in 1914 at Wetaskiwin Alberta, married Gladys Rocheleau from Prince Albert, Sask. In 1949 they, with three children, Marjorie, Erwin and Ella moved to the Rich Hill District, having previously worked on the Christie farm near Innisfail. Louis served three years in the Armed Services from 1942 to 1945.

He purchased a farm located NE2-34-4, through the Veterans Land Act. This quarter was previously owned by the Berghaus and Campbell families.

Gladys Dahms took an active part in the Lutheran Church, Kevisville Hobby Club and the recreation in the Community Hall. Recreation in this area was mostly neighbors getting together, card parties, games at the school, parties held for the children at the school. A special treat for the children was Santa Claus, at the annual Christmas Party, none other than Louis Dahms in disguise and to add to it all, he also had the build and personality to go with it. The most scared child of all was Ella, who did not realize this was her own father.

Community life began changing with the installation of power, advent of television, new roads, etc. The development of oil and gas findings in the community probably was a big help in getting a bridge across the river. Roads improved gradually, many areas just had a homesteader trail through and many gates to be opened and closed to get from one farm to another.

Horses were used by Mr. Dahms the first year he farmed, which he says was quite a let down after working with a caterpillar and all the big machinery on the Christie Farm.

Erwin belonged to the 4-H club and lives in Saskatchewan. Marjorie is living in Toronto and Ella (Mrs. Jim Gibbon) lives in Vancouver.

Gladys passed away suddenly in 1966 and Louis later married Tilley Dogger from Calgary. The two families had been friends for many years. Louis and Tilley still reside in the district.

ANDREAS HANSEN

Andreas Hansen born in Harbylund, Denmark came to this area in 1907 and his wife Anna, born in Silkeborg, Denmark with their small daughter, Dorothea came in 1908. They lived in Dickson, on the Krusell place in Kevisville and in Calgary before taking up a homestead near the Rich Hill school. Katherine and Charlie were born here. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen and Dorothea fortunately all survived typhoid fever. The Hansen home was especially attractive and often had church services. Mr. Hansen

sold cord wood and tamarack posts. He had a boat which he fixed up in the yard for a swing. This proved a special attraction to visiting children. Dorothea remembers her dad made regular trips on foot to Dickson for groceries. On at least one occasion he carried a hundred pound sack of flour home on his back. Hansens left in 1925. Dorothea Powell lives in Blackfalds and Katherine Petersen and Charlie are in Calgary.

CLAUDE HOUSE

Claude House, his wife and three daughters, Edna, Grace and Gertrude, arrived in the Rich Hill district in 1905 in snowy cold weather. They homesteaded the land next to Alfred Andersen's present farm. Claude made part of his living by dealing in horses. He made regular trips south to the States to drive horses back to Canada for sale. This meant he was away from home for weeks at a time. Edna, as the oldest in the family learned early to shoulder responsibility and in many ways take the place of the son Claude never had. In 1907 the House family were living in an old log house. Claude was away and Mrs. House was expecting their fourth daughter. September 12th was overcast, cold and wet as Mrs. House started out to find the cows. The trail led into the swamp. When she realized she was lost it was almost dark. The rain fell steadily. Try as she would she could find no familiar trail and was forced to spend the night in the rain drenched swamp. At home, Edna, only seven years old, was in charge. When her mother did not return she was terrified. She put her two younger sisters to bed and they went to sleep. Edna sat up to keep fires going but she remembers spending much of the night crying and wondering what to do. In the morning Mrs. House returned home. That day Mabel was born. After her night of exposure Mrs. House was very ill and it was necessary to have the doctor. The doctor said both Edna and Grace had goiter. So their throats were painted with iodine each day for six months.

In 1910 the House family returned to Portland to stay about one and one-half years. Two more daughters were born on the homestead, Myrtle before they left for Portland and Vera after they returned. Aunt Dell Benson served as a midwife. In Portland Claude worked as a street car conductor and hated it. They moved to B.C., then back to Alberta. On the trek back there were two covered wagons. Edna drove one of the four horse teams and Edgar Johnson the other. Edna remembers how tired she was after the long hours of driving. Claude brought a bunch of Indian horses from Washington for sale in Alberta. Edna married Joe Lenox. They homesteaded what is now Holiday Ranch but eventually returned to the States. They have two boys and two girls. Grace married Arthur Johnson. Gertrude never married. The House family moved back to the States where the other girls married and settled. Myrtle (Micky) is Mrs. John Boots has two children and lives in Santa Fe Springs, California.

Many stories are told of difficulties encountered when fording the Red Deer river. Two are of interest

here. Claude House planned to cross the river in a boat trailing his saddle horse. He tightened the cinch to keep saddle and blanket in place and started out. He failed to realize a horse cinched tight cannot swim and his mount was drowned. On another occasion he crossed with a team and wagon. The water was deeper than he anticipated, the wagon box floated off the running gear, his load of wire and groceries was lost but man and team reached the bank safely.

ARTHUR JOHNSON

Arthur Johnson, son of Sam Johnson, grew up south of the Red Deer river. In 1917 he bought land in the Rich Hill district which had been homesteaded in 1904 by McHale. Arthur can remember riding up to where Lorne Reesor now lives and seeing the McKains new house being built on their homestead. Arthur moved onto his place in 1918 and still lives there. In 1921 he married Grace House. They have two children. Elmer spent eight years in forestry work at Rocky Mountain House and Slave Lake. He is now back on the farm with his father. Marie (Mrs. Charlie Smith) has four children, Leora, Bonnie, Gail and Wade. The Johnsons first used a tractor for breaking about 1930. Before that all work was done with horses. Arthur kept a good driving team and could make the trip to Bowden in an hour. He liked horses and always owned a number of them. He often rode with the Charlie Lundseth chuckwagon outfit from Bowden in the Calgary stampede, as an outrider and regularly acted as pick-up man at stampedes for miles around. Arthur recalls selling 4-year-old steers in 1924 for three cents a pound. On another occasion he bought calves for three cents a pound, kept them for four years and took a loss on them equal in value to one winter's feed. Arthur is active and still enjoys riding horses. Grace is in a nursing home in Red Deer.

CLAUS PETERSON FAMILY HISTORY by Reta Judkins

It was in the year 1911 that the Claus Peterson family crossed the Red Deer river and pitched their tent on their homestead, the NW28-34-4-5; and it is still "Peterson's".

Claus Peterson was born in Bleking, Sweden and came to United States in 1897. Mrs. Peterson, born Gotilda Hokanson, came from Karlskrona, Sweden to United States in 1898.

My father and mother were married in West-burrow, Mass., U.S.A. on November 22, 1902 and went west to California three years later. Harold, my oldest brother was born September 10th, 1904 in Boston. Clifford and Gertrude, the twins, were born in 1908 in Los Angeles, California. My folks lived in Los Angeles for several years. At this time there was so much talk about the wonderful opportunities in Canada; free land could be had for just filing on it and so it was that my folks forsook the comforts of a lovely home and came by rail to Calgary in 1910 and made their home in the Glengary district. My mother often mentioned the long lonesome train trip and how sick Gertrude and Clifford were on the train.

There was lots of work to get in Calgary at the time the folks arrived as sewer lines were just going in; that is, if you had a strong back. The first adventure in homesteading was on the prairie near Bassano. This turned out to be very heart breaking. When they made the long hard trip out by team and wagon, they found the land full of pot holes, no drinking water as it was alkali and also that it was very windy. They cancelled this homestead and tried for another. This one took them out across the Red Deer river to the Pine View area.

By this time my folks had another son. He was born June 25th, 1910 in Calgary and was named Albert. The summer of 1911 saw the Peterson family on the homestead, working like beavers to build a shack for a home and more log buildings for the horses and cows.

It was a real challenge for my folks as neither my father or mother had lived on a farm before, and knew nothing of the prices that should be paid for machinery or livestock, so it was not hard to dispose of their savings.

Putting up hay for the stock for the long winter was one of the big jobs to be done. Sloughs were sought out and when the time was right to cut the grass, there was great competition between the neighbors who would get it. The first one to arrive with a mower and make the first round around the hay claimed it.

Trips to town were long and hard on both horses and driver. On one occasion when my father came home from town, the river had risen a great deal. Dad was anxious to get home so he thought he would ford it even if it was dark. One of the horses got tangled up and drowned. My father managed to free the other horse but the wagon upset and all the groceries as well as some for his neighbors were lost. Many times it was necessary for my father to swim the river and walk to town.

I, Reta Victoria, was the first child to be born on the homestead, on August 12, 1912. As there was no chance of a doctor being present, Mrs. Willsie, Sr., welcomed me into this world and named me for her daughter Reta.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus Peterson.

During the early years on the farm my father used to go out threshing. He would drive his trusty old team, with wagon and bundle rack as far as Airdrie and Vulcan to get a long threshing run. In the winter with the help of my brothers, he would cut tamarac posts and haul them to town to trade for groceries and supplies. There were always beaver to trap in the spring. When the Great West Logging Co. had their log drive in 1915, my father worked on it but a big flood in June took all the logs and floated them away. When there were jobs to do in the early years, the neighbors pitched in and helped each other, especially when there was sickness or an emergency. When Clifford was a little boy, he fell over a stump and broke his arm. It was set in splints with the help of Mrs. Gibbs and it healed beautifully. My mother was not that lucky when she broke her arm while holding onto a frightened horse. It was a day before they could start out for Olds for a doctor to set the compound fracture.

Arthur, born September 7th, 1917 was a wee baby and complicated matters as he had to travel with his mother, as his formula was not bottled.

Wild fruit grew in abundance; blueberries, raspberries and cranberries were canned in large quantities. Cellars were well stocked with potatoes and vegetables and most always a barrel of salt pork.

Threshing was always a real fest time. Neighbor women gathered at the homes and baked and cooked for days to feed the threshing crew who were mostly all neighbors.

Some of the early settlers had started to leave the area so more land was bought by my father. This included the land owned by Louis Engler, Oscar Peterson, Rueban Rambo.

In 1923 Mabel arrived at the Peterson home. She is the youngest of the family.

By this time my father with the help of his teen age boys and girls, milked a large number of cows. The cream was hauled to the creamery at Sundre by a pair of lively buckskin horses hitched to a buggy or buckboard.

My mother never knew what good health was after a major operation in 1925 but was always so cheerful and always enjoyed company and cooking delicious meals. My father learned to drive a model "T" Ford after he was 60 years old. After Harold and Albert left home, Clifford helped my father with the farming until his marriage in 1937 and then Arthur took over.

In 1953 my folks celebrated their Golden Wedding. It was wonderful that so many of their old friends and neighbors of the early years came to celebrate with them.

After a lengthy illness, my mother passed away April 30th, 1960 at the age of 80 years. She was laid to rest in the Kevisville Cemetery. In 1964 my father travelled to Minneapolis, Minnesota and visited his granddaughter, Ivy Lee. From there he flew by jet to Kokomo, Indiana and visited his brother Albert whom he had not seen for 55 years. He was joined there by his youngest brother, Alex whom he had not

seen since he was 14 years old in Sweden. It was a most memorable visit.

My father was a great reader and until his death on October 27th, 1965, kept very active and interested in the world around him. He passed away at the age of 92 and was also laid to rest in the Kevisville cemetery.

The Peterson family all live in Alberta. Gertrude married Granville Paton and lives at Grande Prairie. They have two children, Jean and Clifford. Albert married Joyce Petersen of Kevisville. They have two sons, Norman and Lynne. They live at Innisfail. Clifford married Charlotte Upham of Olds. They live close to my fathers farm; Charlotte teaches school at Caroline. They have one daughter, Gertrude (Mrs. Les Sorensen of Olds). Reta married Harold Judkins of Mound and they now farm at Brownvale in the Peace River country. They have one daughter, Ivy (Mrs. Thomas Lee of Minneapolis, Minnesota). Arthur is not married and lives on the home farm. Mabel married Wayne Monner of Milo. They have 2 girls, Reta and Gwen. A son, Wayne Jr. passed away at the early age of 2 years. On December 8th, 1965 Mabel's husband, Wayne passed away. Mabel is still at their farm home in the Milo district. Harold is a bachelor and makes his home in Sundre.

Many changes have taken place through the years but the greatest in my father's eyes was the construction of the bridge across the Red Deer river.

S.J. SHEPPARD

Jack Sheppard was born in Hertfordshire, England. He dreamed of a New Zealand sheep farm but immigration to New Zealand then was impossible so in 1930 he chose Canada. He spent the first winter in MacDonald College, Quebec (the agriculture arm of McGill). The following spring Jack came west, first to a sheep ranch at Walsh, and then to a haying job west of Carstairs. That fall he came to Eagle Valley to work for S.F. Johnson, (Arthur Johnson's father) where he stayed until 1935.

Catherine Reid was born at Murray Valley, west of Olds. As a girl she moved with her family to Eagle Hill and then to Garrington. She was working at Ira Johnson's when she met her future husband.

Jack and Catherine were married in 1935. Jack had purchased his present farm in the spring. So they came to live in the Rich Hill district. The lumber for their home they bought at James River. It was laid down at their building site for \$12.00 a thousand. At one time many people took a hog or a cow across the river to Waldenmaers, the butcher. A week after the animal was delivered a second trip was needed, to pick up the fresh meat. A few weeks later the cured meat was ready. The road around by the ferry was long, tiring and uncertain. So it was a common occurrence for people to get as far as Sheppards and get Jack to take them directly across the river. Jack charged \$1.00 for this service. At that time the butcher charged \$2.00 for butchering a hog, curing the meat, rendering the lard and making sausage.

Jack and Catherine had four sons - Tom, Dick, Bill and David. In 1952 they lost Tom and Dick within a

week as a result of polio. In July 1972 Bill married Myrna Rhodes of Markerville. They live in Calgary where Bill is a welder. David is also working in Calgary.

Jack has always taken a very active part in community affairs. He was a member of the local Rich Hill School Board for several years and was on the Bridge Committee. This committee worked with the town of Bowden to get the bridge which replaced the Garrington Ferry. Jack was on the Spruce View Centennial Committee, has been a credit union officer and worked with 4-H. For the past ten years he has been active in the Boy Scout movement. He was Dickson Group chairman for two years, Parkland district president for five years and is now on the Central Alberta Regional Management Board. Jack has just completed his term as chairman of the Kevisville Community board which controls the church and community centre and the local cemetery. He is also a member of the Spruce View School Area Recreational Board.

EARLY DAYS WITH THE WILLSIE'S written by Ruth E. Willsie

In the year 1905, when Alberta became a province, a land boom lured many settlers from the British Isles, Europe, Asia, United States and even Eastern Canada.

The Gibb, Adair and Willsie families, neighbors in Ontario decided to try their luck in Alberta. They were given special freight rates as settlers.

Walter Gibb, George Willsie and his son Oliver loaded one car between them. Each family brought one horse, favorites of the families. These three men rode west in the freight car. Water and feed was carried to the horses in the freight car. They arrived in Olds on February 11, 1906. Mrs. Willsie, Hermon, Gordon, Anna, Reta, Baby Earl, Mrs. Gibb, Donald, and Marjorie travelled by train to Olds, Alberta. Mr. Gibb and Mr. Willsie had rented land near Olds.

Sam Adair and his settler's car arrived about two weeks later. The three men each located and filed on a homestead at the Government Land Office in Olds, Mr. Gibb on SE28-34-4-W5, Mr. Adair on NE20-34-4-W5, Mr. Willsie on SE20-34-4-W5.

These three homesteads were the first land settled in what later was formed into the Pine View school district. It is one-half mile west of the Garrington Bridge.

Logs were cut for all the houses during the summer. After the crop was harvested at Olds, they built the houses. The Gibb house first. This house still stands, the only homestead house left in the district. Windows and doors had been brought from Ontario. Rough lumber for floors and roofs was purchased from Starkain, a homesteader on SW36-34-W5, who had a set of lumber sawed by Bill Bailey. Shingles were purchased in Olds. Log walls were hewed flat with a broad axe and chinked with moss to keep out the wind. As soon as the roofs were completed, the families moved in. Mr. and Mrs. Willsie were both born in Ontario as were their children, with the exception of Mary who was born on the homestead.

Oliver, sixteen years of age, went to work, but he came home to help erect the houses. The winter of 1906-07 was cold and stormy. Large numbers of range cattle drifted with the storms and died of cold and starvation.

Oliver went to work on the Pat Burns Ranch in 1907 during the haying season, stayed to haul hay, rode on the round up and rode herd during the summer of 1908. He furnished his own saddle and bed roll. The Pat Burns Ranch supplied horses. Wages were fifteen dollars a month and board.

There was no school for the children. Most of the homestead land in what is now Rich Hill district was occupied by bachelors and a few families, but as a school required at least six school age children the Pine View district built the first school in 1908-09. Building material for the school was freighted, with horses, from the railroad. Rocks and gravel for the foundation were freighted by oxen from the river. The district elected three trustees and they appointed one of them as Secretary-Treasurer. The school taxes were paid to him and he in turn, paid the teachers and other bills.

This settlement received their mail at the Garrington Post Office located on the SW24-34-4-W5. Mail arrived once a week at the Post Office.

Supplies were obtained in Olds, a distance of thirty-five miles. The trip usually took three days.

Mr. Adair and Oliver Willsie crossed the river on the ice, May 1, 1910. They each had a load of tamarack posts and a crock of butter. They sold the posts in Olds and the butter at Hoffman House, a hotel in Olds, now the Victoria Hotel. Rates at the hotel were one dollar a day for room and meals (twenty-five cents for a meal). They brought back supplies for five families in the neighborhood. They returned to the river three days later to find the ice gone, and the river in flood with spring run-off. They camped on the far side of the river for six days, waiting for the river to go down enough to be safe to cross on the ford. They tied the wagon box to the running gear so that the box wouldn't float off if the horses struck swimming water. The families at home were on short rations as supplies ran out.

The women and children missed church services, but a travelling preacher, Mr. Gambel held services in the various homes.

At Christmas in 1909, a Christmas service and dinner was held at the Willsie homestead. Everyone for miles around was invited. They all came, many rode horse back twenty miles or more. It was a beautiful sunny day and as the people and food started arriving the crowd soon became too large for the house. The men set up tables made of planks under the pine trees in the yard. There were over one hundred people, mostly adults. The food was all prepared at home. A bachelor in the Raven district brought a huge piece of beef to Mrs. Willsie a few days before Christmas, so that she could have it roasted for dinner. They had roast beef, venison and roast chickens, vegetables and of course pies and puddings.

It was a gathering never to be forgotten by those who attended. That evening the folks that liked to dance remained, the first and only time a dance was held in the Willsie home.

The Adair family proved up, on their homestead, sold it and moved to Murray Valley to farm. The Willsie family followed them in 1913. They sold the homestead to their son Oliver and Dick Treleaven for nine hundred dollars. Oliver and Dick were firemen on the Canadian National Railroad. They would return to the homestead when work on the railroad was slack.

Mr. Gibb and Donald remained and continued to raise horses. The horses ran on the range in the west country, the year around. The Canadian Army sent a horse buyer to the ranch to purchase horses for the Army. He offered Mr. Gibb one hundred thirty-five dollars each for sixty head of horses. Gibb refused the offer. They didn't want to sell their horses to the Army.

Donald held a round-up in 1926. He had two riders to help. They spent five days and gathered one hundred and twenty-seven horses, which he sold for fifteen dollars a head. Many of these horses were the ones Mr. Gibb had refused to sell.

When the Willsie family left the homestead, the Pine View school was closed. Rich Hill school was organized; Marjorie Gibb and the Peterson children attended the new school in 1913.

Gordon Willsie enlisted in 1916. Oliver and Dick joined him in the Army and they left for Europe together. Oliver together with twenty-two others contracted mumps and were left behind at Amherst, Nova Scotia. They followed on a later boat.

Gordon was killed in action in 1917. He is buried in France. Oliver was invalided home, arriving in Calgary where he remained in hospital for nine months. Dick saw service until the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. He then had to wait his turn to come home.

Soldiers were returning home, more settlers arrived and Pine View school re-opened about 1919-20. Two young ladies from Vancouver arrived to teach. Gwen Suttley for Rich Hill and Dorothy Blakey for Pine View. Houses were crowded in the districts, so the girls set up housekeeping in Oscar Peterson's homestead log cabin on the NE28-34-4-W5. There was a wooden bunk, built-in table and a cook stove. They filled a bedtick with straw, borrowed bedding, dishes and cooking utensils. They walked to school.

Dick and Marjorie were married in 1921. Dick purchased his partners share of the Willsie homestead through the Veteran's Land Act. Oliver then bought in the White Creek district.

Ruth Livingston came to teach Pine View school in October 1921. Ruth came with her parents as an immigrant from Iowa, U.S.A. to Burdett, Alberta November 1917. She was born in Iowa in 1902.

The fall of 1921 was very dry and dusty. The ford on the river was very shallow, the water wasn't over six inches deep.

There were nine children on the school-roll: Four Peterson children, Gertrude and Clifford (twins), Albert and Reta; Donald Buckles (he lived where Stevens do now); four Valdez children from the Schrader ranch outside the district, Ray, Clara, Petrina and Thomas. Ray was eleven years old and he drove a team of mules four miles to school.

Snow was deep in December. The weather was very cold at times, and the temperature dropped to 60 degrees below zero one Monday morning.

These nine children put on a free concert at Christmas. They spent their noons and recesses practising for over a month. Everyone was welcome. The school house was filled with family and friends from the surrounding districts. Dick Treleaven and Jack Shaw produced their violins and started to play for the dancing which followed.

School was closed during January. Mr. Gibb caught a bad cold and died of pneumonia on the homestead February 1922. He had gone to bring the new teacher's furniture from the railroad. He was caught in a very bad snow storm on the way.

Pine View school was closed shortly afterwards, but re-opened in 1930.

Oliver C. Willsie of Red Lodge and Ruth E. Livingston of Burdett were married in Calgary August 24, 1925.

I returned to the district in 1925 to visit with Mrs. Gibb, Mrs. Peterson and Aunty Oliver. This time I came with my husband; we crossed the river on the Garrington Ferry.

Snow came early that year. Many crops were never cut as the fields were too wet. After the fields froze, some crops were cut while the snow lay on the ground. A few farmers built huge wooden wheels to set the binder in; otherwise the bull-wheel bogged down in the soft fields and the binder couldn't operate.

Oliver sold his butcher shop in 1926. We purchased the Gibb homestead in 1927. We rented our homestead in the White Creek district and came to live with Mrs. Gibb and Donald until spring. Donald planned to grain farm in the Ennerdale district. We wanted to run cattle and horses on the open range in the West Country.

We lived on the Gibb homestead until September 1945. Our nearest store was the Red Raven nine miles away.

During May 1928, the Red Deer River reached the second highest flood level in the history of this district. It was highest in 1915. We still got our mail at the Garrington Post Office.

Mr. Meissner would take the row boat across the river and walk two miles to the Post Office and back. He brought the mail for everyone on this side of the river.

Susie Houston, now Mrs. Susie Tingle of Cottonwood, came on horseback to visit in May intending to stay a day but the river rose so rapidly she was forced to stay about ten days. The river was still high covering the entire gravel bar; but Mr. Meissner thought that by putting the boat in the river up



Willsie family — Back: Anna, Oliver, Gordon, Hermon. Front Mrs. G. Willsie, Mary, Reta, Earl and Geo. Willsie — 1916.

stream, it would be safe to cross. Mr. Meissner and Oliver Willsie took Susie by row boat across the main channel of the river. They ended up landing about a quarter mile down stream. Oliver waited at the river, while Mr. Meissner went with Susie a little over a mile to Paton's. He found it necessary to pack Susie on his back through all the back channels on the far side; as they were knee-deep and very swift. It was over a month later, that a friend led her horse home around by way of the bridge at Sundre. The water remained too high to ford with a horse.

One man burning brush piles in April 1931 let his fire get into the dry grass and it was soon burning out of control. At first it didn't cross the trails, but in the pine timber a high wind came up and it soon became a "top fire". Once the pine trees were burning, there was no stopping it. It burned everything in its path.

We had just finished planing a hundred-thousand feet of lumber. The fire roared through the old tree tops and cut over timber. It was only stopped just short of the lumber piles by the many neighbors who arrived to fight the fire. They watched all night for sparks.

Mrs. Meissner drove through the district spreading the news of the fire and asking everyone to come help fight it. On May 2, a light skiff of snow dampened the grass and reduced the fire hazard. The woods were a sorry sight, all those acres of black tree trunks, no limbs were left. The grass didn't get green until July, after the rains came late in June.

Many millions of feet of fire killed timber were cut and sold for mine props beginning in 1932. This was a good source of revenue for the district. Logs large enough to make lumber were sawed at the saw-mill. It was very dirty work and almost impossible to get the towels and clothing clean.

Some mines were forbidden to use dry timber, so truckers began to haul green timber, after 1942.

We built a new house on the SE27-34-4-W5 at the head of Cherry Springs in 1945, and moved in with our family of six children. Gordon married Jennie Norgaard and lived on NE27-34-4 in the Rich Hill before moving to Colinton, Alberta. They have five children. William lives with his parents on the home ranch. John died of Polio in 1953 at the age of 20 and is buried in the Kevisville cemetery. Tom married Bernice Hendrickson of Dickson. They live in the White Creek district and have three children Irene, Brenda and John. LeRoy married Diane Neufeld and lives at Crammond. They have two children Gerald and Glen. Nora died very suddenly, a victim of Polio in 1953 at age nine. She is buried at Kevisville.

Our sons William and LeRoy operate the ranch together.

The first rural daily mail service was established from Sundre in 1962.

Homesteaders of Pine View were the Walter Gibb, Sam Adair, George Willsie, Tom Squires, John Oliver, Jack Graham, Colnel Noble, Frank Copon, Claus Peterson and Oliver Deslieppe families and four bachelors Paddy Bruce, Earl Livingston, Jack Campbell and Oscar Peterson.

Homesteaders of Rich Hill were the Charlie Johnson, Claude House, Hansen, Kolding, Garfield Thompson and Andersen families plus many bachelors viz: Leo Frolander, Fueben Rambo, Fred Aldrich, Starkain, McCale, Lester Johnson, Charlie Howard and Bert Engler.

Across the river where there was no school lived Tom Barnes, Tom Rodgers, Harry Clark (teacher), also the C. Mondey and Bud Johnson families.

GARRINGTON FERRY

Sometime during the year 1909, the Department of Bridges and Ferries built a ferry scow on the Red Deer River at a site a few rods down stream from the Garrington Bridge. This was the first ferry. Rueben Rambo was the first ferryman. He was a bachelor, also one of the first homesteaders in the Rich Hill district. He built a three sided log shelter at the ferry site. In good weather he camped there, but usually spent the night on his homestead. The ferry scow was tied up on the left bank of the river; if anyone wished to cross the river they first had to locate Reuben. Some would go for him, while others would ferry themselves across the river and tie up the scow. Rueben would come to work, if the scow was on the far side, he would wade the river and run the scow back.

Fred Aldrich became the second ferryman. He spent the hours on duty at the site, but spent the night at home.

Many days the ferryman would not have anyone to take across, other times there might be four or five trips to make. It was a tiresome job unless you liked to fish. About this time bridges were built at Derbytown and Moose Mountain. Now folks had three ways to cross the river, but the snow melting in the mountains late in June 1915, caused the river to run wild. The flood water took out the two bridges and the scow was also lost.

The high water changed the river channel and a scow would not operate near this location. A site was located in the Moose Mountain region. Harry McKain operated this ferry.

Once more the scow was lost during high water. Many years the river was very low. The fords were shallow and except for high water a ferry was not needed. A scow would not operate when the river was in flood. However by 1925, a new ferry site was located about a half a mile down river from the original site. The left bank was high and required a cut through the banks to allow vehicles to get up from the river. This cut was made with horse drawn slips and fresnos. It took about six weeks and cost

\$1800.00 for wages. Now, under present day conditions, one man with a "cat and bulldozer" would do the work in about twenty hours.

The scow and the cut were ready in June 1925. Ernie Meissner became the fourth ferryman. He was paid by the Alberta Government to run a free ferry from 8 o'clock a.m. to 8 o'clock p.m. He collected for himself a toll from the passengers after 8 o'clock. The toll charges were set by the Department. Mr. Meissner was on duty twenty-four hours a day. He was always there and when the scow wouldn't operate, he would use the row boat. He built a one room shack from native lumber, but he did not have time to dig a cellar. Mrs. Meissner and the two big boys dug the cellar, and afterwards with the help of her faithful horse, she and the boys moved the house over the cellar.

Mr. and Mrs. Meissner had three sons. The ferry operated at this location until the high water in 1926 divided the river. It was hoped that when the river went down, the second channel would dry up, but this was not to be. It was decided to operate on the first channel and ford the second one. This was satisfactory for horse drawn vehicles, but motor vehicles had trouble fording and boarding the scow. High water in 1927 made the trouble worse.

During high water in 1928 the river channel moved to an old channel leaving the scow sitting on the gravel bar. The river remained very high most of the summer. It wasn't until September that the scow was moved to the old channel. It was out on the gravel bars with no protection from drift wood coming down river during flood water. Therefore, during flood water in 1929, drift wood piled against the side of the scow, pulled a tower and the river took the scow once more.

A new scow was built and located at the original site. Mr. and Mrs. Meissner moved into Reuben's old log shelter. She hung a large rag carpet over the opening. Mr. Meissner was busy with the row boat, Mrs. Meissner managed the moving and delivered messages. She soon became a familiar sight in the district. She loved to visit, and was always willing to drive people from place to place.

The ferry operated at this site for many years.

After the fire of 1931, mine props were cut and sold to mines at Drumheller. Traffic became quite heavy and about 1935, the Department changed the ferry to Class A. They hired two men and the ferry ran from 8: A.M. until midnight. They also built the first cottage for the number two ferryman. They added a room on to Meissner's house. Dave Thomas was the first number two man to move into the new cottage. Dave was an experienced man as he had worked for Mr. Meissner.

They were lucky at the Garrington ferry. No lives were ever lost, although one lady had the misfortune to drive her car onto the scow and right through the chain into the water. About four inches of the car top was out of the water. Dave was a good swimmer. He dived in and pulled the children through a window to safety. He placed one on the car top, the smaller one

he took to the ferry. He then pulled the driver to safety. After he had the lady safely from the river, he put a chain on the car and took it to the other side of the river. A truck pulled the car from the river and once more everything was under control. One prop truck also landed in the river because the driver didn't set his brakes. No one was hurt, but it was a rather difficult job getting the truck and load of props from the river.

Dave joined the army and went overseas during World War 2.

Some very amusing incidents took place at the ferry. More than one good hat went down the river, and another time they put the ferry on ice. It was usual to pull the scow from the river at freeze-up and put it back in the water, after the ice went out. This year about 1940 the ferry had run all winter; in the spring break-up the ice up river went out quickly. It came so fast it ran right under the scow, lifting Mr. Meissner and the scow up on twelve feet of ice. That was one time it was easy to put the scow on the river bank. They just pulled it off the ice; at that it took longer to do it than it took to put "it on ice". The ice had to be pushed back into the water before the river could be cleared and the scow put back in service.



The Garrington Ferry.

The traffic on Sunday during a good berry season was extra heavy. Many people came to pick blue berries and cranberries. They would not start home until about five o'clock, before long the line of cars waiting to cross would be a quarter of a mile long. It kept the ferryman busy long after dark.

The Department of Ferries built a larger scow in 1946. This one was large enough to accommodate four cars at a time.

The ferry was a good tourist attraction. Many people drove from the urban centres and the prairies just to cross on the scow. On weekends the scow was lined with fishermen fishing from it. In the evenings the gravel bars would be dotted with campfires of burning driftwood. When the water was low, usually in the fall, the ferry would not run on its own power; it then became necessary to crank it across the river by means of a pulley and cable. The passenger would generally lend a hand. Some ferries had gasoline motors, but the Garrington ferry was always cranked by hand.

Mr. Meissner was seventy years old in 1955, but the Department of Bridges and Ferries let him finish

the season. On retirement he was paid a bonus for thirty years of service. Mr. and Mrs. Meissner decided to spend their retirement years in a warmer climate. They purchased a home at Sardis B.C. A farewell party was held for them in the Rich Hill School.

Other ferrymen following Mr. Meissner were Mr. Alvin Johnson, Mr. James, Mr. Lester Johnson and Mr. Maurice Cheston.

In 1960 a survey crew came to survey a bridge site and new access roads. In 1961 a contract was let and work commenced on the bridge and road. The Garrington bridge was opened for service in August, 1962. The ferry ran the day of the bridge opening for the last time.

The Department kept the cable but the scow and buildings were offered for sale by tender.



Pioneer home of J. Hunford.



Road making.



Sawing wood at Lundgren's before 1925.



Ready for a picnic.



Thorn Hawkins at Markerville Creamery.



Well drilling at Hindbo's (New Hill) — 1934.

SPRUCE VIEW

GENERAL HISTORY SPRUCE VIEW AND SURROUNDING AREA

When the first settlers arrived the area was part of the North West Territories. The province of Alberta was formed in 1905. The portion west of Markerville was first known as "Yankee Flats", because most of the settlers had come from the United States.

Taxes of two dollars per quarter were paid to Fred Schmidt of Craig, who was the first tax collector for the L.I.D. (Local Improvement District). In 1919 taxes of six dollars per quarter were paid to Mr. Laird of Mountain House which was across the Red Deer River, south west of Dickson. As a part of the municipality of Poplar Grove taxes were paid to the Secretary in Innisfail. In 1953 the area became a part of the County of Red Deer.

Sloughs were everywhere due mainly to the lack of drainage. When roads were finally being built, the farmers with their horses helped and by so doing they paid off their taxes. The Dickson Drainage Board was formed about 1919.

By 1935 most of the roads were graded up and were good dry weather roads. During spring thaw and rainy spells some were best avoided. This included the main road to Innisfail. The spring of 1948 was especially late and rainy. The main road to Innisfail was impassable. In desperation a jeep was hired to take the milk to town and it too became stuck near Heckla. The gumbo rolled up in huge balls making any vehicle immobile.

In 1951 the road to Innisfail was widened, graded and gravelled. But the heavy snowfall each winter

would block the road completely. Roads were made through fields on either side of the highway. Caterpillar tractors were used to plow out the snow but that was very slow going. Several times Fred Weinrich of Dickson took his school bus and gathered up a load of men, each with shovels. They shoveled their way through toward Innisfail.

In 1959 the Provincial Government took over and paved the main road to be called Highway 54 - a real boon to the west country. The first pavement did not stand up so it was redone in 1963.

The cream haulers played an important part in the community as they would bring groceries from the store, take mail to the post office and also bring the mail back on their return home. There were Knud Knudsen, Fred Schmidt, Pearly Thromberg, Chris Christensen, Les Harden and Herman Mikkelsen to name a few. They always had a cheery morning greeting and time to tell a bit of news picked up along the way. Herman Mikkelsen will long be remembered for his politeness and courteousness no matter what favors were asked of him or how much mud he had to plow through and there was plenty of it.



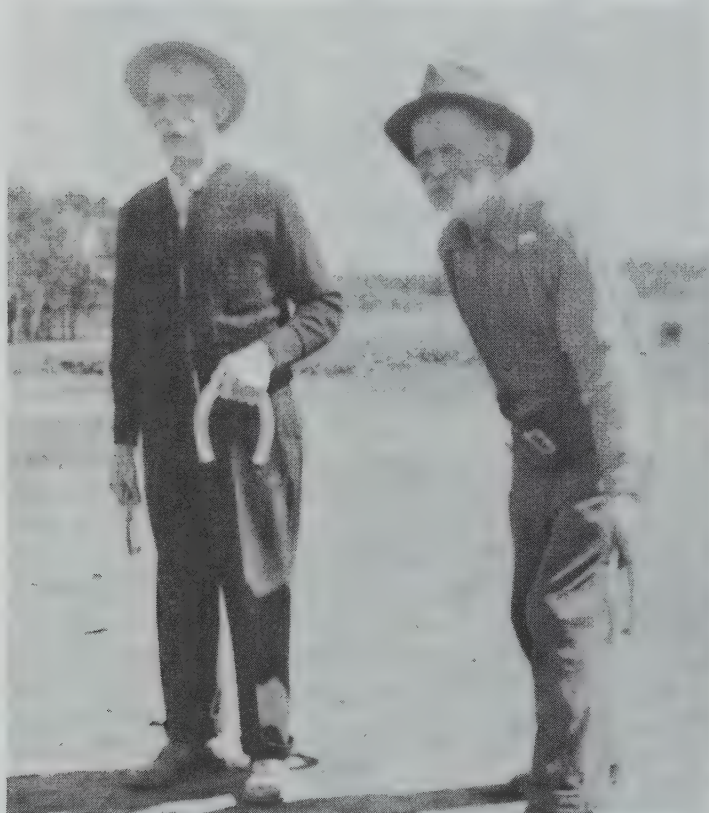
Neal Price breaking in 1929.

There was no regular news service and this was particularly noticeable during World War I. It was days or even weeks before news of the Armistice reached some of the more isolated.

In 1943 a petition was circulated by Bert Thompson, to start a mail route from Innisfail. This route RR1 Innisfail was finally realized, but came only as far as Markerville, Spruce View and Dickson. R.R.1. Markerville started Aug. 2, 1955, serving the area of Hola, Happy Hill, Craig and part of Spruce View. The Innisfail route was extended west to take in Raven and Kevissville when the new Spruce View post office was opened in 1968.

By 1920 living conditions had improved somewhat. Telephones had been installed on the eastern side of the area and extended to the area of the present Spruce View hamlet and to Dickson store. The operator lived in Markerville and handled the switch board there. For many years there was twelve hour service only. In case of sickness the operator would usually oblige by answering a night call. D.D.D. was installed and has provided service since January 6, 1963, with lines extending throughout the whole area. In 1971 lines are being put underground.

Besides using coal oil lamps and gas lamps, a few people did install windchargers and home lighting



James Lewis (R) and his brother playing horseshoe.



James Lewis stacking hay.

plants. By 1945 meetings were being held in the hope of getting rural electrification. This was finally realized in 1950 and probably helped more for a better way of life than anything else. In June a large community picnic was held at the Dickson park to celebrate the occasion. Power was turned on March 4, 1950.

In 1955 an oil well was drilled one mile east of Spruce View hamlet, on NE12, land owned by L. Heinsen. It proved to be a dry hole. In 1958 a well was drilled on SE28, land owned by Stan Pearson; in 1959 one was drilled on SW27, land owned by M. Heinsen. One was also drilled across the road on Carl Nielsens land. These three are still producing. These drilling operations brought in many people to the district. Small communities of trailers were set up. Other members of the crews found board and lodging in various homes to be close to their work.



Road building with 12 horses about 1920. L. to R.: Eric Dohlman, Pete Adamsen and Bill Lewis.

During the 1950's and '60's many new homes were built using either oil or propane gas for heating. And now natural gas lines have been laid in the Markerville area.

In December 1932 Number 1 wheat sold for 22 cents a bushel. In 1940 Number 3 wheat sold for 46-3/8 cents a bushel.

Aphids caused heavy losses in barley crops in 1953.

During the 1960's the elevators were full of grain as were the farmer's bins.

WEATHER

The winter of 1906-07, according to oldtimers was a very long cold one, when thousands of cattle were lost throughout Alberta.

1887 was also extremely cold, as was 1919. (stated in "West of the Blindman" Innisfail Province August 6, 1969)

Earl Snowdon of High Prairie sent a clipping from an Innisfail Province of 1924, which tells of the cold temperatures and heavy snowfall. A severe storm hit

the Innisfail district in December leaving two feet of snow on the level and sending temperatures to 62 degrees below. Two freight trains and a passenger train were snowbound in Innisfail.

1930-31 an open winter with no snow, found some of the young men playing baseball in January.

1936 and 1943 are recorded as being very cold.

1947-48. There was heavy snowfall and a very late spring. Snow banks stayed on the side roads until late May but this was before snowplows came into use.

1954 was an extremely wet year. Farmers can well remember that fall when many used two tractors to pull the combine.

1968 gave another wet summer and fall. Lots of tough grain was combined and of course, could not be sold.

1969 was the year that the temperature dropped to forty below and stayed there for most of January.

Hail storms cause much concern each summer and it is not uncommon for at least one bad storm to sweep through the area and destroy the crops.

FIRE

Oldtimers remember a fire that burned west of Markerville about 1912. It was started by children playing with matches at the old Bethel church site, where school classes were being held. Everything was tinder dry, a brisk breeze blowing, so in spite of frantic efforts by neighbors who saw the smoke, the fire could not be stopped until it reached the river. Enroute it had burned thirty-six stacks of hay, - feed so vitally needed for wintering the cattle of the pioneers.

4-H

About 1953, five Spruce View girls became interested in sewing and asked the assistance of Gladys Tronnes, who was a very good seamstress. Others became interested and the Dickson teachers asked Gladys to go to Olds and take a short course in 4-H leadership. The group grew to include fourteen girls. Mrs. Dora Sloan was assistant leader. Mrs. Viggo Andersen, known for her cooking skill, was asked by the Home Economist to give the girls cooking lessons. Achievement days were held and so began Dickson 4-H.

4-H has grown through the years, and we presently have Kevisville Multi-Purpose, Spruce View Beef, Markerville Sewing.

SPRUCE VIEW SCHOOL NO. 2744

The children of the earliest pioneers attended classes in a log building on SE1/4-30-36-2, where church services were also held. It was known as Bethel. These classes began about 1903 and continued, part time until the Spruce View school was built. The first supervisor of these classes was Miss Amanda Andersen (Mrs. Bill Martin of Innisfail).

The Spruce View school district was established May 25, 1912. Its southern boundary was along the present Highway 54 - two miles east and three miles west of the present hamlet. It extended three miles north of the highway and consisted of fifteen sections of land.

It was first established as Petersen School district. (Alberta Gazette Volumn 8-10). On June 25, 1912 the name was changed to Spruce View, the same name Knud Knudsen had chosen for his homestead SE28. The first trustees were William Scott, Lacy Cook and Morris Petersen.

In 1913 the school was built on NE23-36-3-W5, one and a half miles north of the present hamlet, on land bought from Mr. Attwater. Stanley Stigings and Fred Mecklenburg built the school, for \$860.00.

The first teacher was Roy Evans.

The musical ability of Mrs. Lacy Cook and Mrs. Tom Johnstone was a great help to the teachers and pupils in preparing Christmas programs.

Around 1930 they were printing a school paper "The Spruce View Echo". Business manager was Edwin Hansen, editor was Thelma Olesen.

Spruce View was closed in 1942 and the children were bussed to Dickson.

The new Spruce View School was opened in 1959. It is situated on Highway 54, east of the hamlet and accommodates children from approximately twelve school districts.

In 1973 Mr. Pearson continues to represent our area in the Red Deer County.

ITEMS FROM THE "SPRUCE VIEW ECHO" a school paper printed about 1930.

"We are sorry this paper was not published on the date set but we were waiting for the Hectograph.

Ralph Hart won the silver medal for general proficiency in athletics at Markerville Fair September 22.

Will our new church at Bethel be finished in time for our Christmas concert?

Mr. W. Andersen met with a painful accident on October 11. A tree fell on him and sprained his ankle. He is able to be around again.

Many of the residents of this district have been attending the Chautauqua at Markerville. All report a good program.

Clyde Paul, Jack Cook and a party from Lethbridge left last week on a hunting trip.

Kenneth Rhodes has been absent from school as he had his tonsils out.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. Kirkpatrick is sick in the hospital in Innisfail.

Frank Vandaele met with what might have been a serious car accident. The car was somewhat damaged but Frank escaped with minor injuries.

A Railroad has been started from Carstairs to Rocky.

The Raven Post Office was broken into and robbed of a sum of money November 15.

Mr. O. Coleman met with a nasty accident. His hand was caught in a buzz saw and badly cut."

SPRUCE VIEW HOME AND SCHOOL

On January 25, 1961, one hundred and thirty people gathered in the Spruce View gymnasium, to form the Spruce View Home and School Association. Mrs. Rita Matiisen, Regional director, addressed the meeting and explained the purpose of Home and School.

The officers and committee members were elected and installed by Mrs. Matiisen. The first executive consisted of President Mitchell Jurasevich; Vice-Pres. Mrs. C.G. Miller; Sec. Mrs. Emil Budvarson; Treas. Mr. Nels Thesberg; Committees were named for Program, Ways and Means and Hospitality, Membership, Publicity, Resolutions and Historian - from one to three members on each committee.

Other presidents since 1961 have been Mrs. C.G. Miller, Nels Thesburg, Aage Larsen, Mrs. L.P. Bryant, Roy Hoven and Darwin Baker.

For several years the Spruce View Home and School sponsored the Achievement Award given to the top student in the class and to the student making the most progress during the year.

Each year the Home and School members have helped with the concession on Sports Day, served dinner for the local A.T.A. Christmas party and served the dinner for the graduands.

THE BACHELOR CLUB

The Bachelor Club was formed during the depression years of the 1930s. Times were hard and the young men of Spruce View lacked the funds to get married. They called themselves the "Bachelors of Paradise". Original members were Ralph and Elmer Hart, Neil and Wallace Price, Martin, Ray and Fred Heinsen, Harry Smith, Joe Vandaele and Peter Thompson. They met once or twice a week to visit or play cards.

They then decided to meet in the Spruce View School and share these happy gatherings with the rest of the community. The school parties were held every other Friday night. The men were charged ten cents each, the ladies brought lunch. Coffee was made at home and brought along in cream cans. Gas lamps were also brought along to provide light. These could present problems by running out of gas or needing new mantles. No one seemed to mind the delay while repairs were made. There wasn't the present day rush or pressure of living.

Bridge playing ended about eleven p.m. The desks were pushed back and the floor cleared for dancing. Music was supplied by any one who could play an instrument, usually Jack Ashe on his mouthorgan accompanied by members of the Heinsen family on guitar, banjo or violin. Viggo Andersen sometimes played his violin also.

The collection was used to buy prizes, and to pay for expenses of the evening. Expenses included mantles, 15 cents a pair, and gas for the lamps - about .15 an evening. Prizes were bought in Calgary at Woolworths where there was a good selection of items. Twenty-five cents would buy the top prize, perhaps a cup and saucer or a plate for lady's high score; a deck of cards for men's high. Consolation prize would cost ten or fifteen cents - a small vase, a brooch or tie pin. Coffee cost 25 cents a pound.

Some of the prize winners were Katie Lamb, Marg Vandaele, Mrs. Jay Reesor, Algot Martinsen and Andrew Larsen. Scores were tallied up and prizes given at the end of the season. These year end prizes cost up to \$2.50. Prizes given were a sandwich set con-

sisting of sandwich tray and four bread and butter plates, a vase with artificial flowers, brush sets, shaving lotions, etc.

Travel to and from the parties was by sleigh or cutter pulled by horses. A cutter is a box like structure placed on runners. With straw or hay in the bottom and lots of blankets and robes to wrap up in, the journey was quite comfortable. When the first cold weather came, cars were put away to wait for the spring thaw. There were no snow plows so many road allowances were completely filled with drifts up to six feet deep. It was not unusual for a sleigh to upset and send all occupants tumbling into the snow. This only added to the evening's fun.

Oldtimers look back with nostalgia to those evenings of friendly get togethers. Little money was involved but there was a wealth of good fun and laughter. Friendliness and companionship meant so much during those depression years.

One by one the bachelors became married men and left the club, though a couple of the original group still remain true confirmed bachelors.

SPRUCE VIEW RED CROSS - MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II

The first Red Cross meeting was held at the Spruce View hall on July 24, 1940. Mrs. W.J. Lewis was elected president and Mrs. V. Andersen sec.-treas. Meetings were held regularly from then on, sometimes in the hall but usually in the homes of the members. Several members were from the Heckla district. Committees would meet to cut out garments, then pass them on to other ladies to sew and finish. Wool was distributed to anyone who could knit. Every spare minute was used to advantage. On May 21, 1941 a group of ladies armed with sewing machines, met at the hall. They spent the day sewing. By evening a large bundle of clothing was ready for shipment. Dances and social evenings with Bingo, wheel of fortune, guessing games, were held as a way of raising money. Lunch was sold at Andrew Larsen's sale and proceeds turned over to the Red Cross.

In 1941 a series of "chain teas" were held. One person invited three people for tea. Those three each invited three to their home and so on. A collection was taken each time and all proceeds sent to Red Cross.

In 1940 everyone was required to register. Craig school was the centre where we registered on Aug. 20, 1940. On July 1, 1942 sugar rationing began. This included all forms of sugar including syrups. Meat was also rationed, as was gas. In 1943 a law was passed which required the owners' names to appear on all trucks. These trucks were prohibited from operating more than 35 miles from their registered address. Farm trucks were exempt but must carry the owner's name.

Quite regularly trucks came from farm to farm gathering up all old tires; another would gather scrap metal.

For some time in 1944 hogs could not be sold due to a shortage of help in the packing houses.

Twice a year, Victory Bonds were sold. W.J. Lewis headed this in our area. If he were busy, Ivy took

over and she sold on one successful day, two \$8,000 bonds, one \$1,000 bond and numerous smaller ones.

Many of our young men enlisted or were called for service. Two from Spruce View gave their lives: Armand Sabourin and Alfred Andersen (eldest son of Frank Andersen).

Though there is no record of work done during World War I, we know those pioneer citizens did their share as well, in sending money and comforts to the soldiers.

SPRUCE VIEW COMMUNITY HALL

Building a hall was talked about for several years before the hall became a reality. In the early 1930's there was a local U.F.A. group (the Alberta Government at that time was U.F.A. - United Farmers of Alberta) who at one time decided to go ahead with the building. Bill Andersen offered land directly across from the old Spruce View school. A. Sabourin hauled a load of gravel to this site. This would be a very small pile, just what could be hauled in a wagon pulled by a team of horses. However it was a beginning. What happened to this scheme no one seems to remember.

By the spring of 1935 meetings were held and these are some of the minutes of the first meeting:

"A hall meeting was held on Mar. 25, 1935 at the Spruce View school for the purpose of discussing ways and means of building a hall for this community.

It was decided to capitalize the hall at \$1000.00. Shares to be sold at \$5.00. Five shares the limit to shareholders. Shares were to be given for labor - \$1.00 a day. One vote per person.

The following were nominated as canvassers for shares: Fred Mecklenberg, Joe Vandaele, Fred Heinsen, Viggo Andersen, Thorvald Jorgensen and Armand Sabourin.

A land committee of Fred Mecklenberg, Joe Vandaele and Jacob Hansen was named for the purpose of interviewing Mr. Hein Heinsen in getting a site on his corner for the hall. It was decided to find out the various prices for lumber. M.C. Heinsen was named Sec. Treas. Meeting adjourned 'till April 15, 1935."

On the building committee were Fred Mecklenberg, S.G. Andersen, D. McBeath, Viggo Andersen, Ralph Hart, Ray Heinsen and A. Sabourin. The foundation was laid in 1936 but there was some delay in getting the lumber. It was bought in June 1937 from H. Suhr of Caroline - 11,000 ft. at \$15.00 per M. A down payment of \$110.00 was made, the balance to be paid at \$10.00 per month. Twenty dollars were borrowed from F. Vandaele to finish paying \$70.00 for shingles. Head carpenter was Fred Mecklenberg. Though far from finished, the hall was officially opened with a dance on Sept. 10, 1937. That fall siding was put on, a chimney built and a ninety gallon oil drum was converted to a heater. Lights were provided by R. Vanderberg who had a 32 volt power plant for his store and garage across the road. Sometimes the extra load was too much for the small plant resulting in very dim lights. Calgary Power was

installed in 1950 with the proceeds from a Community Sale.

Shortly after the hall opened, the Board planned a fish supper. Chairs, tables, dishes etc., were brought from the various homes. A second hand cook stove was brought in and placed at the south end (where the stage is now). Being minus one leg it was propped up on bricks. Shortly before serving time there was a crash, the bricks had given way and the stove sat at a ridiculous angle. Many dishes were broken but fortunately someone was close enough to save the large kettle of creamed peas and carrots which did no more than splash on everything and everyone nearby.

The first picnic was held at the hall on July 27, 1939. Bill Lewis and Les Harden were in charge of the races. The "Calgary Hillbillies" played for the dance.

A counter was built in the north east corner serving as kitchen until 1941 when a kitchen and entrance were added to the north side.

For several years Joe Steene and later Mike Steene brought shows to the hall every Friday night. It was the highlight of the week, for the children especially.

Orchestras that drew large crowds in earlier years were Ma Trainor and her "Calgary Hillbillies", Rocky Mountain Rangers, Pappy Watts and Bud Sandberg.

Serving as chairmen over the years have been Andrew Larsen, Fred Heinsen, Jacob Hansen, Viggo Andersen, A. Martinsen, John Kappel and W.J. Lewis (20 years). M.C. Heinsen was Secretary until 1955 when he left the district. Since then Mrs. W.J. Lewis has taken care of the books and also rents out the hall. Mrs. V.R. Nielsen has been caretaker for several years, also serves lunch at the dances. She has given a great deal of her time to keeping things in order.

A building fund, sponsored by the Spruce View Ladies Club, was started in 1968 and the new kitchen was added in 1972. A completely new hall board was formed in 1969 and consists of J.C. Johannson (Pres). Oliver Nelsen, Jean Reid (representing the Women's Guild), Marion Nielsen (Spruce View Ladies Club) and Helen Lewis (3-Point W.I.).

SPRUCE VIEW HALL LADIES AUXILIARY

To assist with serving lunches at the dances put on by the Hall Board, a number of ladies from the district decided to form an Auxiliary. The first meeting was held at Mrs. W.J. Lewis' on Mar. 19, 1953. Mrs. Lewis was elected President and Mrs. Jessie Mikkelsen Sec. Treas. Working in groups of three, the ladies took turns looking after lunch on dance nights. This group carried on until 1957. Any profit made was used to buy kitchen equipment, stove, stools, blinds, mirrors and finally stage curtains.

HISTORY OF SPRUCE VIEW COOP STORE

It was in 1938 that the idea of a Cooperative store for the Spruce View area, grew in the mind of Viggo Andersen. With the help of Thorvald Jorgensen, he began selling the people of the area on the idea. The



First Co-op Store in Spruce View.

interest seemed keen, but memberships of 50 cents sold none too freely and shares of \$5.00 each were even harder to sell. Viggo decided to finance the idea himself, if he could manage the store until he could be paid back, and so it began. Andrew Larsen was first President of the board of directors. Members, under the supervision of Bert Thompson, began building the store. No one received wages. The first building measured only 24 x 26 feet, with a store area of only 14 x 24 feet and living quarters of 12 x 24 feet at the back.

The store opened on July 10, 1939. The total stock was purchased with \$103.00, all that was left after necessities such as a counter, scales, etc., had been purchased. Times at first were difficult. Stock had to be purchased with cash, as no wholesale had much faith in the adventure.

Viggo was paid a commission which was not enough to live on, so he went working for the farmers, stooking, haying, threshing etc., while Mrs. Andersen tended the store. The wholesalers were kind enough to split cases of goods or cartons of cigarettes, when there wasn't enough money to buy whole ones. The first month's turnover was \$175.00 but each month showed a slight increase. The store stayed open every evening and on Sundays.

In three years time, things improved. Credit was available, stock was vastly better, and the building was enlarged. New living quarters were added. By 1948, the yearly turnover has reached \$102,000.00

Viggo left the store in 1948, and Orville Tronnes became the new manager. During his time a new warehouse was built, and a light plant was purchased.

Ed Reid became manager in 1956, a position he still holds at the time of writing. He and his family moved to a home behind the store in 1959. The old living quarters were added to the store area in 1963. In that year also, the name was changed from "Corner Co-op" to "Spruce View Co-op". Growth has remained steady.

In 1968 a new warehouse was built on land purchased across the highway directly north of the store.

By 1970 it was decided that a new store should replace the old, and in 1971, on Feb. 25 opening ceremonies were held. The new store boasts modern restrooms, a large cooler, a cheery office and all the conveniences of the city stores. Fittingly, Viggo Andersen, the first manager, was on hand to cut the ribbon.

SPRUCE VIEW WOMEN'S GUILD

The Spruce View Women's Guild held its organizational meeting at the home of Mrs. Ed Reid on May 19, 1964. The first executive consisted of

President, Mrs. Anna Damgaard; Secretary, Mrs. Coralie Adams; Treasurer, Mrs. Frances Nielsen.

This group has taken an active past in the community and have helped with many projects. They have sponsored the TB X-ray clinic, sponsored students to the Gold Eye Lake Camp, awarded \$25.00 bursaries to the grade ten students making the most progress during the year, and assisted students to attend the Banff U.N. Seminar.

A Credit Union operated for approx. ten years in the 1940-50's. Pres. was B.J. Bjarnason, Sec. Treas. M.C. Heinsen.

SPRUCE VIEW LADIES CLUB

On February 26, 1948 a Ladies Club was formed at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Borge Nielsen in the hamlet of Spruce View. Nineteen ladies attended. Membership fees were set at fifty cents a year. The first executive was President, Mrs. Jessie Mikkelsen; Vice-Pres. Mrs. Bertha Olesen and Sec. Treas. Mrs. Marion Nielsen. The first gift committee was Mrs. Helen Nielsen, Mrs. Eleanor Sandberg and Mrs. Marie Kappel.

Objectives of the club were first, to provide a social afternoon for the ladies of the district, then to lend a helping hand where needed, and to work with the local hall board in improving our hall. Lunches were to be kept simple so no hardship would fall on any member. A motion was passed stating that a one dollar fine would be imposed if this rule were broken. The first projects were to help finance the painting of the hall and to support the skating rink.

Old woollens were collected and sent away each year to be made into blankets. The club received blankets as premiums.

The first honorary member was Mrs. Hazel Vanderberg. She could not attend the meetings as she worked in their store, but she was always ready to help with generous donations. Viggo Andersen was a faithful auctioneer on many occasions.

Contributions are made to Cancer, March of Dimes, Polio, Red Cross, Mental Health, Innisfail Rest Room, Fire funds, etc. and each year they have helped to send a student to Banff to the U.N. seminar. The annual Christmas party never fails.

The tenth anniversary of the Club was celebrated in 1958 with a social evening to which all former members were invited. That year marked five



Spruce View Ladies Club — Marion Nielsen, Katie Lamb, Kate Nielsen, Helen Nielsen, Jessie Mikkelsen, Margaret Pedersen, Ricky Paulsen, Dorothy Lamond, Grace Nicholson, Flora Adams, Jean Featherstone.

consecutive years of perfect attendance for Mrs. Estelle Moheim who was honored with a gift for her faithfulness.

In 1959 the club catered to its first wedding reception when Norma Thomsen was married, and has catered to many receptions since.

Silver and golden wedding anniversaries of the members are sponsored by the Club, as are showers for their children. Families of members are remembered too - "piggy" banks for new babies, gifts for those hospitalized and for high school graduands.

The Club was instrumental in having the proper spelling put on the local Post Office - Spruce View spelled with two words, not one.

The biggest project in recent years has been raising money for a new kitchen at the Community Hall. Construction is now under way.

Charter members who have belonged to the club for almost twenty-five consecutive years are: Mrs. D. Pearson, Mrs. B. Nielsen, Mrs. Katie Lamb, Mrs. A. Moheim, Mrs. Kate Nielsen (honorary).

SPRUCE VIEW SKATING RINK

The skating rink was situated where the Curling Rink is now. The first meetings were held in 1949. Money was raised by dances, box socials and plays. A well was drilled by Hendricksons and a fence built. The well proved to be a very good one and is still being used for the Spruce View school and for the kitchen and washrooms at the Curling rink. In April 1950 a community sale was held - proceeds of over \$600.00 were divided equally between the hall and the rink. Ice was put in that fall and skating started Dec. 1st. An official opening was held Jan. 16, 1951 with music supplied by Heathfield-Hilderman. Lunch was sold.

The first carnival was held Feb. 24. It was a beautiful night and people came from many surrounding districts. The Queen was Beverly Bjarnason of Heckla. Other queen candidates were Jean Adams, Spruce View; Darlene Johansson, Markerville; Judy Beale, Raven; Irene Harden, New Raven; Marion Jensen, Dickson. Most of the skaters were in costume. After judging of costumes and races for the children, daffy broomball and hockey games were enjoyed. In broomball the "Amazons" fought the single men to a draw in 20 minutes. The door prize was won by Jeppe Christensen. Bud Sandberg was in charge of the music and Cecil Dermott announced the program over the P.A. system.

A shack was built in 1951 and skating continued for two more winters with another successful carnival in 1952. Elsie Lamond was Queen. Other queen candidates were Dana Andersen and Alberta Brownlee. These were winters of particularly heavy snowfall which meant lots of snow shovelling to keep the ice clear. With the amount of work involved, interest soon began to lag.

There was a short period of skating in 1953. To raise money the Benalto players were asked to put on their play. Their all-male cast was most hilarious. In 1955 the rink shack was closed up and in 1959 it was torn down. Anything of value was given to the hall.

Those who served on the Board of Directors were Ralph Needham, Verner Nielsen, Bill Lewis, Fred Heinsen, Jean Lewis and Ray Heinsen. The Spruce View Ladies' Club helped with the money raising so were asked to elect three ladies to the Board also - they were Gladys Tronnes, Annie Heinsen and Jessie Mikkelsen. Gladys acted as Secretary for the skating rink and helped in so many ways to keep things running smoothly. There was one casualty at the rink. Mrs. E. Budvarson fell and broke her arm.

A play "Aunt Tillie Goes to Town" put on by local talent had the following cast - Mrs. V. Andersen, Dana Andersen, Ethel Rubek, Edward Heinsen, Lucille Clark, Ralph Needham, Jessie Mikkelsen, Marie and John Kappel, George Lewis, Gladys Tronnes. Director was Viggo Andersen.

SPRUCE VIEW CURLING RINK

By 1958 Spruce View had grown to a hamlet of some size. The people of the community began thinking of setting up centres for recreation in their spare time. Several of the men who had been bitten by the curling bug, began dreaming of a rink for the community instead of travelling to more distant parts for the chance to curl away their spare time in winter months. After some discussions by these fellows, a meeting was called for January 20, 1959, to feel out the subject. The public seemed very enthused with the idea, and decided to canvas the area and try to sell shares to start a fund. The shares were set at \$10.00 each. No limit was set on the number of shares anyone could purchase.

On Feb. 18, 1959 a second meeting was called and this time it was decided to go ahead. A board of seven men was elected to promote the project. All these men had worked hard to get things started and were; Fred Heinsen, Emil Budvarson, Gerald Schmidek, Gunnar Hansen, Phil Heare, Bill Lewis and Eric Matson. Later Alfred Andersen and Archie Syms were added to this number.

On Feb. 20, 1959 a Board Meeting was held and officers were elected. The first president was Bill Lewis and vice president was Emil Budvarson. Annie Heinsen was elected secretary-treasurer, a position she still fills most efficiently. At a meeting in Feb. it was decided to begin the building. The building was placed on the same site as the Hall, this being community property. Donations of labour were most gratifying and people marvelled at the speed at which the building was completed.

On Jan. 6, 1960, a public meeting was held at which plans were made to begin curling. A social curling match was held to open the rink. Bill Lewis, as president, had the honor of throwing the first rock. The first bonspiel was held in Feb. 1960.

In Jan. 1961, the ice had to be bulldozed out and remade. The water was found to contain too much salt and would not freeze properly. The ground on which the rink was built proved to be subject to heaving in frosty weather and the ice was difficult to keep straight. In 1967, the club built a floor for the rink on posts which had been driven labouriously

into the subsoil. This much improved the situation. In 1965, water works and rest rooms had been added.

The club is justly proud of its roomy and well equipped kitchen. In 1968, the rink was insulated. The club curls for two trophies. One was first used in 1963, and was named the McQueen Trophy in remembrance of Scotty McQueen. The other is the Cave Trophy, donated by the Cave brothers in 1966. Annual Bonspiels have done much to shorten the long winter months. The rink is a popular meeting place throughout the winter. Any curling night will find many of the neighbors seated behind the glass, curling the easy way, enjoying coffee and a friendly repartee.

The club boasts four honorary members, Beuphard Baker, Bill Lewis, Archie Davidson and Vic Adams. Their framed memberships hang in the kitchen.

LADIES CURLING CLUB

On Jan. 28, 1961 an organizational meeting was held to form a ladies' curling club. Hilda Matson was elected President and Jean Reid Sec. Treas. Eight rinks curl each Monday evening during the curling season. The ladies operate the kitchen during the mixed open bonspiel and have also catered to wedding banquets and prepared pancake suppers.

RECREATION CLASSES 1954-55

These classes were held in the Spruce View hall under the direction of Edward Heinsen. Edward attended a Health and Recreation Institute in Red Deer during the summer. The young people taking this course had to be sponsored by a local club. Edward was sponsored by the Spruce View Ladies Club. The students were then asked to return to their own district and work with the children during the winter. Included was the teaching of folk dancing, exercises and tumbling, drills, games and community singing.

Mrs. Gladys Tronnes was Edward's assistant and Burnita Pottèr was pianist. About 45 children attended. Demonstrations put on during the winter were attended by large crowds of parents and friends. Lunch was served by the Ladies Club.

TEEN CLUBS

Various teen clubs were formed during the 1950s but usually ended with the school term. One group was known as the A.B.C. Club but no other information is available. They donated to the skating rink, hall etc. According to a newspaper clipping belonging to Gladys Tronnes a Teen Club in 1956 had as President Verda Nielsen, Vice-Pres. Darlene Shannon and Secretary Irene Quinn.

HAMLET OF SPRUCE VIEW

The hamlet of Spruce View is situated nineteen miles west of Innisfail on Highway 54.

The first buildings were R. Vanderberg's store and garage built in 1934 on SW13-36-3. This land was then owned by Mrs. Rose Onsum. "Van" also had an acreage on the south side of the road - NW12 which he bought from H.F. Heinsen. On this Van dug a well and built a small barn for his cow and hogs. Besides caring for her family of four Mrs. Vanderberg looked after the store while Van ran the garage and did



First Coffee Shop in Spruce View (later "Potters").

general trucking. He took the farmers' livestock to Calgary along with as many empty gas drums as he could pile on top of his little truck. When the livestock were unloaded, he would have the gas drums filled with gas to bring back to sell. At times road conditions were most hazardous. The snow and ice of winter, the mud of spring, the dust of summer must have been most trying for anyone driving so much. But this small business prospered and soon others began to move in to the crossroads.

Shortly after Vanderbergs came, Ralph Hart put up a building where the hall now stands. He planned to start a second hand store and lumber business. Nothing came of this as Ralph found work elsewhere and the building was sold to Bill Lewis who still uses it for a barn.

The hall was completed in 1937 on NW12.

"Ternary Lumber" was a trucking business run by three young lads - Gisli Eirikson, Howard Thompson and Tommy Ross. It operated for a few years at the beginning of World War II. They had a small house on the south west corner of the crossroads, land now owned by Heathfield-Hilderman; and had batched together there while attending high school at Dickson.

Hans Petersen was an early resident who started up a machine shop on the south west corner - NE11 - owned by Andrew Larsen. His daughter lived with him and attended school at Dickson. Carl Nielsen started a garage east of the hall where Mrs. Hans Andersen now lives. Jensen Bros. and Vic Adams started a stockyard and trucking business also on the south west corner. The first coffee shop was opened by Charlie and Betty McCall from Caroline. They hired Vern Nielsen to move the building from the Lorne Ressor farm at Kevisville to where Potters now live on the north side of the highway and east of Vanderbergs. The Co-op store opened in 1939 on the south side of the highway. Verner R. Nielsen bought an acreage from Ray Heinsen and moved in 1944. He still carries on a lumber and trucking business. Jack Riley retired to Spruce View when he bought land from Vanderberg on the south side of the road. This was then sold to Hans Andersen in 1948 for a garage site (now Adams Service). In the same year Andrew Andersen built the Pool Hall which operated successfully for a number of years. Harry Andreassen, a carpenter, came to live at the "Corner". He built several houses, all nicely painted, adding much to the general appearance of the hamlet. These houses sold readily.

This location was known as "The Dickson Corner", everyone referred to the "Corner" Store, "Corner" Co-op, etc. In 1957 a proper survey was conducted. In 1958 at a meeting of the residents the first Spruce View Hamlet Committee was elected. On the committee were Vic Adams, Eric Heathfield and George Potter. Street lights were installed and proper drainage provided; a playground was prepared and equipped on part of the Co-op property. Fire protection was provided by a chemical fire extinguisher. More recently a fire engine has been bought to serve the hamlet and surrounding area. First firemen were George Lewis, Bob Crowley, Bud Thompson, Larry Bertram and Ken Hilderman.



Vanderberg Store — 1941. In background, first building in the hamlet (first store).

Now in 1970 the Spruce View hamlet boasts also a post office opened in 1968, electrician's shop, veterinarian, A.G.T. building, curling rink, Cafe and Motel, beauty parlor, four teacherages, a trailer court and an oil business presently operated by Bob Cox. The Co-op store has expanded by building a large warehouse, the first building on the north west corner (Lewis). In 1971 the large modern Co-op store opened.

We are pleased to have several retired citizens living in the hamlet - presently Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. G. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. V. Adams, Mrs. Leighton, Mrs. K. Nielsen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mundell, Mr. and Mrs. P. Lamb, Miss Pearson.

The present population is almost 100 persons.

THE VICTOR ADAMS FAMILY — by Flora Adams

Victor Adams came to the Raven District in 1912, with his parents. In 1926, Vic and I were married. I was Flora Jensen of Kevisville. We lived in the district for two years and then went to Calgary where Vic worked for Oliver's Ltd.

He was laid off work in the depression, and as there was no work of any kind to get, we decided to go out on the "Back to the Land" relief program put on by the government. We were given a loan to buy two horses, a milk cow, two pigs, a wagon and harness, and a few pieces of used machinery. We got \$10.00 a month for two years for living expenses and a quarter section of land on much the same terms as

filing on a homestead. This was open land with no buildings, so we bought a used 14'x14' tent.

In July, 1933, our goods were loaded in a freight car. Vic, myself, and our four youngsters went on the same train in a passenger coach. There were seven families in the group that went north to the Pigeon Lake and Rimbey area that day. Our quarter section was fourteen miles south of Pigeon Lake. Everything was unloaded at Hoadley, and Vic had to haul it from there with the horses and wagon. Our land was completely covered with trees and brush, except for a small clearing beside a lovely spring. This stayed open all winter.

Here, we set our tent up, and told the kids not to go ten feet from the tent or they'd get LOST. We tethered the cow, hobbled the horses, fixed a pen for our two pigs, had our supper, and fell into bed.

Vic got busy fencing a pasture but he had to stop his work every day or two to hunt for the kids and me when we got lost in the bush picking berries. I'm sure he would have found everything a lot easier if he had just left us out there. Also, our tent leaked in numerous places, so he had to make a trip to Bluffton to get yards and yards of oil cloth to fasten up over everything. Someone told us to paint the roof with melted wax so we got wax and painted. The next time it rained, it leaked worse than ever as the wax had cracked, and kept the water from running off. We had built the walls up with boards and put a floor in so things weren't too bad till a family of skunks decided to make their home under the floor. We smoked them out, but in a few days some of their cousins moved in. They had relatives moving in and out all fall till we banked it up for winter and the ground froze.

We got a log barn put up and Vic finally had time to start getting logs out for a house, 20'x24'. These he peeled and then "squared" with a broad-axe. My brother, Herman, came and helped through the winter and he also had some volunteer help from a kind neighbor who lived two miles away.

We had to set a cot up for Herman at night, and the only place for it was in front of the cook stove, which we had to keep going full-blast with the oven door open. I'm sure he still remembers how warm his feet were at night that winter, as they were practically in the oven.

We spent some of our evenings making moccasins for the kids out of deer hides which Vic tanned, and others playing cards. The coyotes sang us to sleep every night.

Christmas Day was a red-letter day that first winter, as we put a small window in the tent. When it was storming, the kids took turns looking out at trees.

In May of the next year, we moved into our house which seemed like a mansion after spending almost a year in a leaky tent, and best of all, we could "see out."

We were four miles from the school. So, as the children came of school age, they took their school lessons, and Sunday School lessons by correspondence.

We traded places with Vic's folks, so the children would be able to go to school. We built on to the house, built log barns, etc., and had a comfortable home. We were off the relief program by then. Returns from farming were slow coming in. So, Vic decided to start a trucking business, with an old one-half ton truck. We also got some more milk cows and soon had a bit of range stock. Vic hauled pigs and other farm produce and brought groceries, etc. back for the farmers.

We got three or four horses. Vic liked trading horses. So, we had quite a variety — both in color and shape, as well as behavior. The youngsters seemed to try their best to break their necks riding them, but somehow they came through the years without even a broken arm. We loved our horses, at least most of them.

Vic seemed to spend as much time digging the trucks out of snow and mud on those country roads, as he did driving them; but his trucks gradually got bigger until, finally, he had a three-ton, and was getting all the hauling he could manage.

By then, three more little Adams' had joined our tribe.

In 1945, we sold our farm and stock, and came to Spruce View, then called "the Dickson Corner." Here, Vic joined Laurence and Herman Jensen in a trucking business. Later, he bought out their share and started a business of his own known as Adams Transport. He also bought a small school bus from Hans Andersen which took the children from Raven and "the corner" to Dickson. When the schools were consolidated, he retired the old bus and bought five large buses.

By 1961, he had sold his trucking business and the school buses, and bought a garage at Spruce View from R. Bertram, in partnership with his sons, Ken and Lyle. In 1964, they tore the old garage down, and had a new one built in its place.

Lyle quit the garage, and got a job with the Hudson Bay Oil and Gas, and Vic and Ken took Fred Andersen in as partner in the business. Vic is retired now and goes fishing, probably what he dreamed of doing all those years he was driving trucks.

We have seven children. June married Mike Dvornek and they farm near High Prairie. They have three daughters and two sons.

Frances married Harry Nielsen and they live at Markerville. Harry works at road construction. They have one daughter and two sons.

Lorraine married William Coffey, a Cpl. in the Air Force. They are stationed at Winnipeg, and have one daughter and three sons.

Donald married Mary Kozie and lives at High Prairie where he has his own trucking business (another Adams Transport.) They have a daughter and two sons.

Jean married M. Hucal and lives in Red Deer. They have three girls and one boy.

Ken has the garage in Spruce View. He married Coralie Giles. They have three sons.

Lyle is married and lives near Caroline.

ANDREW E. ANDERSEN

"I was born in Denmark on April 25, 1894 and came to the United States in 1914. During the three years there I finished my high school at Luther College, Racine, Wisconsin. Then I bought land in Canada at Hussar, Alberta and tried to farm. In the six years I was there I only had water to spare once. In 1922 we had five inches of rain in two hours and you can't imagine the situation! Everything came to a standstill. We had all the water we could use to take a bath and get cleaned up, for the first time in five years. In 1923, I moved up to Dickson and took a timber contract south of Dickson. In 1924 I bought SW32-35-2-W5 now owned by Axel Christensen. In 1945 I sold my two farms and in 1948 started the Spruce View Pool Hall."

The pool hall is now closed and Mr. A. Andersen lives in retirement in Spruce View having bought the former home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Simonsen.

The house in which Mr. Andersen lives was originally the home of the Budvarson family at Craig. When Stani Budvarson built his new house, the old house was sold to Mr. Alex Isbister who moved it south to the land he owns NW22-35-3-W5.

About this time, Mr. and Mrs. George Simonsen sold their farm in Kevisville, and bought an acreage from A. Raun. They bought the Isbister house and had it moved to Spruce View in August 1955. They lived there in retirement. Mr. Simonsen passed away and is buried in Dickson. Mrs. Simonsen returned to Denmark.

HANS C. ANDERSEN (BLACKSMITH)

Hans Andersen was born in Denmark and came to Canada in 1910. He settled in Saskatchewan where he farmed and also had a blacksmith shop. During World War II he worked for three years as a welder and machinist at Norman Wells, N.W.T. Mrs. Grace Andersen was born in Vegreville, N.W.T.

Mr. and Mrs. Andersen came to Dickson in 1945 when he purchased the garage from Fred Weinrich. In 1948 he sold to Wood and Wiebe and bought property in Spruce View. This property belonged to the late Jack Reilly (now Adams Service). He moved the Reilly house back and built a garage, opening for business in January 1949. From 1948 to 1951 he drove the first school bus to carry the Spruce View students to Dickson. He sold the bus business to Mike Dvornek.

Hans rented a small garage built by Reilly to Heathfield-Hilderman for their electrical business. It later became the Hi-Way Coffee Shop.

About 1959 Hans sold the garage to Melrose Bros. and bought the Melrose business on the east side of the hamlet. Here he carried on with his welding and blacksmith shop until 1962. Owing to ill health, he rented the business. Hans passed away in 1967 and is buried in Alto Reste Memorial Gardens, Red Deer.

Mrs. Grace Andersen lives in Innisfail.

H.C. ANDERSEN (GARDENER)

Hans Andersen was born in Denmark in 1878. From there he went first to Greenland where he spent

eight years. It was in 1927 that he first came to Canada. When he came he was accompanied by Herman Mikkelsen who had worked in Mr. Andersen's greenhouses in Denmark.

He was a bachelor and a man fond of outdoor life. For several years he spent his winters on a trapline. He also had a fondness for growing things and in 1930 he started a market garden at Dickson, which he operated for ten years. His gardens were across the road from Chris Nielsen's on land owned by Matt Westergaard. The gardens were on a ridge or side hill with his little log house at the bottom.

Hans then moved to Markerville where he spent the next ten years at Dan Morkebergs. While here he landscaped for many homes in the area.

In 1950 he moved to Spruce View and again started a market garden and nursery. As there were two Hans Andersens in the area, he was generally known as 'Gardener' Andersen. Even in his last years he spent many hours working amongst his plants and shrubs and had reached the age of eighty-six when he passed away at Spruce View in 1964.

VIGGO ANDERSEN — by Karen Andersen

We came to Canada from Denmark in April 1926, to Standard Alberta, where we worked during the spring and summer. That fall we came to Dickson, were married in the Dickson church in November and began farming on N.W. 34-35-3.

The first months in 1927 young and old gathered in the school for Gymnastic Exercises. I had been a leader in Denmark, and Pastor Benson thought it would be good to have such a program here. It was fun and we did what we could but we didn't have the equipment we were used to using in Denmark.

We farmed west of Dickson until 1939. Our three daughters, Vera, Paula and Dana were born in that time.

We sold out and moved to Spruce View and helped to start the Spruce View Co-op. In 1942 our boy, Fred, was born.

In 1945 we bought N.W. 7-36-2, a mile east of Spruce View, where we farmed for ten years. We sold to Hans Hindbo and moved to Innisfail. Viggo is a bookkeeper.

Vera (Mrs. Ben Jensen) lives at Vernon B.C. They have three children, also a grandson.

Paula (Mrs. Jack Berghaus) and Jack are both electricians. They have three children and live in Iowa, U.S.A.

Dana was in a 4H cooking class while we were on the last farm. The Home Economist found out I had been in a Folk High school in Denmark so she just elected me leader of the girls. It was a real joy working with them. Some of the teachers came down to make quilts. I had a frame and a big room and they really quilted with very small stitches.

Dana (Hergott) is a Registered Nurse, lives in Calgary and has three daughters.

Fred works with Adams Service in Spruce View. He married Bernice Johansson of Markerville and they have two children.

THE ANDERSON FAMILY as related by Edith (Anderson) Brown.

My father, Gustave Anderson, was born Nov. 17, 1848, in Smoland, Sweden. My mother, Mary Weberg, was born Oct. 6th 1850, also in Smoland, Sweden. They came to the United States in 1868 and were married April 6th of that year in Burlington, Iowa. Thereafter they lived in the states of Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska until 1902, when they and their family - by this time numbering seven sons and two daughters - moved to Innisfail, Alberta.

The Anderson children are as follows: George 1871-1934; Frank 1873-1955; Charles 1875-1959; Joseph 1878-1958; William 1880-1967; Amanda (Mrs. Bill Martin) 1883-1966; Edward born 1885; Harry 1887-1949; Edith Marie (Mrs. Lark Brown) born 1890.



Edith Anderson's Shower — Back Row: Mrs. G. Flake, Mrs. Benedictson, Ida Thompson, Thora Thompson, Margaret Morkeberg, Mrs. Morkeberg, Mrs. N. Nelson, Nellie and Ted Anderson. Second Row: Mrs. C. Vandaele, Mrs. McBeath, Edith Brown, Meryl Baker with Fern Anderson, Mrs. Mary Anderson, Mrs. B. Baker, Bessie Rhodes. Front: 2 unknown, Esther Nelson, Blanche Vandaele, Nellie Baker, Mrs. Cook, Mary Baker.

Brother Charlie went to Alberta in 1900, the remainder of the family in 1902. My father and brothers, Frank, Joe, and Will filed homesteads on Section 24-36-3, and we lived in Innisfail for two and a half years. We then lived one year in a shack on Frank's homestead while our house was being built on the NW Sec. 30.

Our nearest neighbor was the Lacey Cook family, on S.W. 1/4 of the same section.

Since we were twenty miles from a Doctor, with no telephones, the only means of transportation was by



Anderson Family — 1905: Harry, Amanda, Ed, Edith, Joe, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Anderson, Bill, unidentified.

horse-back or horse-and-buggy, my mother was often called to assist in the birth of children, some of whom are still living in the district.

We did not lack for entertainment. We enjoyed picnics, celebrations, and baseball games-in fact, Markerville had one of the few ladies baseball teams in the Province. In the winter time, there was the usual round of dances, socials, weddings, etc. When one considers the horse-drawn sleigh transportation, the sub-zero temperatures, and the distances involved, it is easy to realize that these early settlers were a hard-working, fun-loving, and extremely hardy people.

BILL AND JOE ANDERSON

They lived on N.W. Sec. 30 until they retired to B.C. They remained bachelors and were favorably known throughout the entire area. They helped with all community projects. The Kovach family lived with them for many years before moving to their farm at Craig. The Anderson farm was sold to C. Rhodes. Several families have lived there since-Clarence Rhodes, Kenneth Rhodes, Grant Orr. It is owned now by Dwight Matson.

A letter was received in 1967 from Bill Anderson in which he stated "that a man by the name of Johnson was the first to live on NW 30-36-2. Johnson built a sod house but didn't stay long. He went back to the U.S. This quarter was homesteaded by the Andersons and this is where the family lived. George Anderson, the oldest son, never lived on the homestead. He, his wife, and three year old daughter went to California.

A man by the name of "Avery" first had the Cook farm. He went back to the states. He did not put up any buildings."

FRANK ANDERSON

His homestead was N.E. 24-36-3. He built a livery barn on the site now occupied by Lundgren Motors in Innisfail years before cars became the common method of travel. The livery stable was destroyed by fire in 1913. He cooked for many of the early construction gangs in the area.

In 1910, Frank married Isabelle Davidson who died during the flu epidemic in 1918. They had four sons; Alfred, Charles, Cedric, and Douglas.

In 1920, Frank married Anne Gillespie. They had four children; Ronald, Audrey, Leonard, and Betty. Leonard, and Betty attended school at Spruce View for a time while staying at the home of their brother, Charlie.

The four older boys all farmed in the Markerville - Spruce View area. Charlie bought E1/2-24-36 and lived there. His brothers stayed with him and worked for farmers in the area until going to farms of their own. These boys were good horsemen and took pride in driving or riding well-groomed horses.

Alfred was killed in action with the Canadian Forces during World War 2. Charles passed away in 1962 after a lengthy illness. Cedric farmed near Markerville, then moved to Edmonton where he still resides. He married and had four children. Audrey

(Mrs. Chris Jensen) and Leonard live at Innisfail, Betty in Calgary. Ronald served with the Armed Forces during World War II. He is married and lives near Rocky Mt. House. Douglas farmed near Markerville.

HARRY ANDREASSEN

Harry Andreassen was born in Lolland, Denmark in 1903. He came to Canada in 1926, to farm in the Markerville district. He was a carpenter and did a good deal of building in this area. He moved to Spruce View and built many of the homes in the hamlet as well as the teacherage. He was a member of the Curling Club. After a short illness, he died in 1965.

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

William Armstrong was born in 1902 and came west from Ontario in 1912. He and his family farmed NW21 and SW28-3-W5 in the Spruce View district from 1934-1944. Later they went into the motel and concrete block businesses. They are semi retired now, living in Calgary.

Mrs. Armstrong lived west of Calgary in the Beddington district where her parents homesteaded in 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong raised a family of six. Wilma and Wesley started school when Mrs. Metcalfe opened her home for a few pupils. Later the New Raven School was built and they attended there. Armstrongs helped to form the New Gospel Mission, and were staunch supporters until they moved in 1944.

Many incidents come to their minds concerning their life in the Spruce View district: Of sleeping all night in the truck when moving in; of being stuck in the mud; of bad blizzards and blocked roads. Spring would then come and the weather would be so nice.

The family is scattered now. Wilma, of Penna, is married and they have three children. Wesley, Don, Ray, Betty and Olive all reside in Calgary.

JACK ASHE

Jack came from England in 1930 and lived on SE28-36-3. He was always ready to help out in the community. At the social evenings in the school he played his mouth organ for the dancing. He was a very patriotic man and when war broke out in 1939 he enlisted and went overseas. He now lives in Otawa.

JOHN R. BOOTH

John Booth was born in Britton, S. Dakota in 1905. He accompanied his parents to Saskatchewan where he worked on farms. In 1932 he and Carl Petersen came to the Calgary Stampede. They like the country and decided to stay. Johnny worked for Andrew Larsen several years. Carl Petersen farmed near Markerville.

In 1935 John married Julia Heinsen. They farmed at Rimbey and then rented NE 28-36-3, land owned by Semotonk. They moved to Spruce View hamlet in 1953 having bought an acreage (now J. Mundells). John served on the Hall Board. In 1956 they moved

to Innisfail after Johnny started work at the Bowden Institute. Julia passed away in 1966. They had one daughter, Marlene (Mrs. Tom Sakaluk), who is teaching school at Winfield, Alberta.

BOWMAN

The Art Bowman family lived in Spruce View while Art worked in the garage. Their daughter Margaret worked in the Co-op store. Georgina and Robert attended school in Dickson.

DR. LAWRENCE BRYANT

Doctor Bryant, and his wife, the former Margaret Denholme, were both born in Ocean Falls, B.C. They did not meet however, until 1954. Larry had received his B.Sc. in Agriculture and was heading for Guelph to take his veterinary medical degree. Margaret was heading for the Sick Children's hospital in Toronto. They were married in Guelph in 1956, and a son, Tommy, was born there in 1957.

After Larry's graduation, they came to Innisfail to work for the Drs. Godkin. During this period Jack and Carol were born. They moved to the Richmond-Ladner area of B.C. where Larry worked with practitioners and the Health of Animals Division of the Federal Dept. of Agric. Here, Ross and Mary Ellen were born. In 1965, Larry decided to start his own practice. They decided to settle in Spruce View. They purchased the home from the estate of Harry Andreason and began the practice of Veterinary Medicine on May 1, 1965.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Bryant have taken keen interest in community affairs. They joined the Bethany Lutheran Congregation at Dickson. Dr. Bryant has been on the Group Committee of the Boy Scouts. Both are active members of the Home and School and Mrs. Bryant served as president in 1967-68. In 1967 their Centennial Project arrived, by the name of Blythe, and later Rachel was born.

EMIL BUDVARSON

The youngest of the children born to the John Budvarson's is Emil. He was born on the homestead in the New Hill district, and lived there until his parents moved to their new home at Craig. For several years he worked in a grain elevator, but never lost his love for the farm. At first he rented a half section of land from Rose Onsum in the Spruce View district, and after his marriage he decided to buy the land and make his home there. He had married Donald Moore, who had been teaching at the Craig school, and they moved to Spruce View in 1945.

Interested in community affairs, he has served on the board of the Spruce View Co-op, the Markerville Telephone Company, the F.U.A. local, the Curling Club and at one time coached the Junior Baseball team. He was an enthusiastic worker for the building of a curling rink and has served on its board in several capacities.

Emil and Donnie have two daughters. Dianne married Ronald Kenzle and they have three children; Drexel is a stenographer in Calgary. Their only son, Shane, is still at home.

CECIL BURDIKIN

Cecil Burdikin homesteaded N.W.10-36-3 in 1912. He sold to Jacob Jensen and rented NE 28-36-3 from Semetonk. During World War II he worked in a munition plant in Calgary. He died as the result of an accident in the 1950's.

KNUD CHRISTIANSEN

Knud Christiansen, his wife Thilda and their seven children arrived in Innisfail from Denmark in 1929. After a couple of days in Innisfail, they bought a truck load of furniture, mostly second hand, and moved to a house which they had rented east of Dickson. It was a long slow ride in a strange land where they knew no one. Soon after their arrival, they were given a welcome party by the Dickson congregation which helped greatly to make them feel at home.

Knud purchased a quarter of raw land from the C.P.R., SW15-36-3. It is now owned by their son Willie. Clearing the brush took lots of hard work as it was done mostly by axe and by using a team of horses.

Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen retired to Calgary in 1956 where she still lives. Knud passed away in 1965 and is buried in the Dickson cemetery.

The children are: Elly married Kresten Paulsen; Carla, twin sister of Elly, married Paul Gundersen. Iris (Mrs. Harold McFarlane) lives in Vancouver. They have two children. Aage, at Wayne, Alberta, is married and has three children. Willie married Ellen Budd of Camrose. They live on the home place and also own N.E. 8-36-3-w5. Willie served overseas for four years during World War II. They have four children: Betty, Larry, Joyce and Raymond. Harry, Holger Enoch and Alma live in Calgary. Eric lives in Vancouver.

THE LACY COOK FAMILY

Lacy and Carrie Cook came from England and moved to Innisfail in 1902. They took up a homestead near Markerville, S.W. 30 and moved on it in 1903. They raised a family of seven girls and two boys. The girls being older than the boys, all helped with choring, haying, etc. There was no school here, so Annie and Marjorie attended school in Calgary in 1912. The other children attended school in the Bethel Church until the Spruce View School opened in 1914. At first the school was open only in spring and summer so the Cook children rode horseback to Markerville in the winter.

Mrs. Cook was a charter member of the Bethel Ladies Aid. She sang at every concert or entertainment in the school, church, and halls for miles around. Mrs. Cook moved to Calgary in 1946, and lived with her son, Dennis. She died October 25, 1966.

Mr. Cook worked hard over the years and did well. By 1919, he had purchased two more quarters of land - N.W. 28 and N.W. 19. The N.W. 19 quarter was C.P.R. land. Mr. Cook educated all nine children and was credited for getting the first school organized. He moved to Calgary in 1948 and died in 1953.

In 1936, Mr. Cook still farmed S.W. 30 and turned the rest of the land over to his son, Jack. Jack married Adeline Johnson of Markerville. They built a house on N.W. 19 and moved on in 1937. Jack raised three sons; Dallas, Barry, and Blaire. Jack later sold quarter 28 to Pete Oleson. Pete Oleson sold it to A.P. Fraser in 1959. Jack sold S.W. 30 to Conn Brothers of Innisfail. Carl Matson bought N.W. 19 and Jack moved to Calgary. Dennis Cook also lives in Calgary.

Violet (Mrs. W. Sveinson) and her husband have farmed for years in the Markerville District. They have three sons. Marjorie (Mrs. D. Maclean) lives in Ottawa. She has one daughter and a son. Annie (Mrs. Willie Johnson) is now living in Vancouver, and has two boys. Francis (Mrs. W. Rees) is a widow living with her brother, Dennis, in Calgary. Kay (Mrs. Harvey Munro) lives in Vancouver, and has two girls. Mabel (Mrs. Louis Donavon) is a widow, living in Vancouver. She has one girl. Evelyn (Mrs. Blair) is married to a Doctor, and is living in Vancouver.

ROBERT FEATHERSTONE

Robert Featherstone was born in England in 1896. He was a veteran of World War 1 and came to Canada in 1925 to farm east of Markerville. He was a salesman for Bowden Seeds and Nurseries and also was mailman for a few years.

Bob married Jean Walter who was born in Calgary. She had been working for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Reilly for a number of years. When Mrs. Reilly died in 1945 Jack sold the farm and built a house in Spruce View where Adams Service now stands. Bob and Jean lived with Jack Reilly and looked after him until his death. Jack's step-son, Kenneth Templeton, gave the south part of the lot to Jean in appreciation of her faithful services to Reillys. For a while Bob and Jean operated the coffee shop, then sold to G. Potters.

Bob passed away in 1965 and Jean in 1968.

They had one daughter; Marion, who married Roy Johansson and they live in the Big Bend district.

FOKKENS

Bill Fokkens came to Canada from Holland. Sylvia Van der Wekken came from Holland in 1956 with her parents who got work at Raven, while Sylvia worked in H. Thompson's store in Spruce View.

After Bill and Sylvia were married, they lived at Lacombe before moving to Heckla in 1961. In 1970 they bought land in Spruce View from Olsen Bros. Bill carries on a trucking business "Bill's Transport" besides farming. They have five children, Gerty, Margaret, Irene, Derk and Dennis.

JIM GILCHRIST

Jim Gilchrist and his wife came from Scotland to SE28-36-3 about 1926 and lived there four years. Her brother Bill Graham stayed with them. Bill was killed while fighting fire in B.C. Jim Gilchrist was a very good knitter and kept the family supplied with socks. In the winter he got up wood for the school. He sawed the wood by hand. They had two children, Josephine and John. They moved to Cochrane in 1930.

CHRIS GUNDERSEN FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Gundersen and their family of one girl and four boys were all born in Denmark. Many of their friends were emigrating to Canada and often the Gundersen family spoke of doing the same. It was at a confirmation party at one of their neighbors that three young men, including Arnold Gundersen, made definite plans to leave Denmark. They had a long discussion on where to go and finally decided on Winnipeg. It was on April 24, 1927 that they arrived there. All got farm work near Winnipeg.

That fall, Erna Gundersen and her friend, a sister of one of the boys with Arnold, decided to follow their brothers to Canada. They too came to Winnipeg and found work.

With part of the family already here, it was easier for Mr. Gundersen to make up his mind. In 1928 he sold his farm and came to Greenway, Manitoba. He and Arnold worked at various jobs as they moved west finally settling in Dickson in 1930. Chris bought NW 33-35-3-5. They built a log shack with dirt floor and sod roof. The next year they built a larger log house with tar paper roof. It was at Easter time, before they put shingles on, that there came a spring storm of rain and snow. Needless to say, the roof leaked. It took a lot of kettles to catch all the rain on the inside. There was heavy timber on this quarter of land and most of the clearing was done by hand. Chris and Arnold batched for one year. The following spring Mrs. Gundersen, Borup and Jacob came from Denmark. Paul came in 1933. All were members of the Lutheran church. In 1951 Mr. & Mrs. Gundersen bought an acreage from Viggo Johnsen and retired to Spruce View hamlet. Shortly after Mrs. Gundersen passed away very suddenly. She is buried at Dickson.

Erna married Axel Pedersen and lives in Victoria. They had one daughter.

Arnold married Bessie Mosgaard of Spruce View. They live on SW 18-36-2, the farm formerly owned by Peter Mosgaard. Both are very willing workers in the community and are often called on to give the neighbors a helping hand. They have three children, Beatrice (Mrs. Wayne McDowell) of Innisfail; Douglas of Red Deer; and Alice attending school.

Paul came to Canada in 1933 to join his parents and brothers. In 1939 he married Carla Christiansen of Spruce View. They worked at Standard one year, then rented the farm of Matinus Nielsen south of Dickson, and later, the Harold Mogensen farm. In 1944 they bought SW 14-36-3 previously owned by Alfred Schilling and built up the present farmstead. They have eight children, including two sets of twins. Ellen (Mrs. Ralph Rawleigh) has three boys and lives at Hanna. Norman married Donna Scott. They have two children and live in Calgary. Freeman farms with his Dad and his twin Elaine (Mrs. Meryl Rayner) lives in Edmonton. Marilyn, Sharon and twins, Danny and Dana, attend school at Spruce View.

Borup (Bob) married Bodil Jensen of Dickson. They farm the home place. They have three children,

Lucille (Mrs. Danny Scott) of Ridgewood, Doris (Mrs. Gary Rhodes) and Brenda.

Jacob married Mary Christensen of Wayne, Alberta. They live in the Raven district. They have two children, Jean (Mrs. Jack Shultz) of Edmonton, and Richard.

JACOB HANSEN

Jacob Hansen was born in Iowa, U.S.A. in 1884. In 1907 he married Lena Rosenbeck who was born in Iowa in 1890. They farmed there for a time and then ran a livery stable in Guthrie Centre, Iowa. In 1918 they moved to Bassano, Alberta, and in 1922 to the Spruce View district, settling on N.W. 18 before purchasing N.W. 11-36-3.

Jacob owned a threshing machine and did custom work. Jacob and Lena were willing workers in the community. Jacob helped build the Bethel church and Spruce View Hall. He also served on the hall board. Lena was a member of the Bethel Ladies Aid. She passed away in 1940.

In 1942 Jacob moved to California where he resided until his death in 1966.

They had four children, Mabel, Harold, Edwin and Evelyn.

Mabel married Peter Olesen. They had one son Arnold. Mabel died in 1930. After his mother's death Arnold lived with his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. O. Olesen. He is married and lives at Brownvale, Alberta.

Harold married Eleanor Barrett from Berrymore, Alberta. They farmed at Spruce View on N.E. 10-36-3-W5, then moved to Winfield where Harold was engaged in the lumbering business. They now live in Edmonton. They have three girls — Gwen, Sylvia and Betty. Their son Clarence died as the result of an accident at 12 years.

Edwin married Esther Kanten of Caroline. They farmed in the Happy Hill district and at Caroline before moving to California in 1944. They have three children, Twilla, Rodney, and Karen.

Evelyn married Bill Williams in 1942. They farmed and operated a saw mill near Caroline before settling in the hamlet of Spruce View. On June 25, 1956 they opened the Hi-Way Coffee Shop which was located between the hall and the garage. This they operated for a number of years. Bill is kept busy delivering gas to the farmers, for Mr. R. Roest, while Evelyn is a capable clerk in the Co-op store.

They have one daughter, Donald, who married Albert Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Thompson. They have two sons and live at Rocky Mountain House.

Jens and Chris Hansen, brothers of Jacob, moved to Spruce View in 1922. They bought S.E. 23-36-3 and rented Sec. 13. They returned to Iowa in 1926 where they still reside.

EDWARD P. HANSON

Edward Hanson was born in 1881 in Iowa U.S.A. He emigrated to Canada in 1904.

Edward became interested in homesteading at Dickson, through Rev. Gudmund Grill. Rev. Grill's

enthusiasm fired a like enthusiasm in six young men. Land was filed on for all of them but Rev. Grill failed to receive the necessary support for himself and his family. Assuming the whole venture was impossible, he cancelled the homestead claims. That didn't deter Ed or E.P. as he was known; he set out alone for Dickson, Canada the land of opportunity.

He travelled by train from Council Bluffs, Iowa to Innisfail, for the rate of one cent per mile, the special rate given to land settlers. With the country from Portal, N. Dakota to Estevan, Sask. looking like a great lake, train travel had its interesting moments! The passengers didn't only get off the train and walk, they were kept busy pushing the ties under the rails to solidify them as the train slowly crawled along the submerged road bed.

Ed arrived in Dickson to find his homestead right had been taken up by Anton Laursen who had not yet arrived. He still had the choice of taking it but he thought it would be easier for him to find another place than Mr. Laursen. Ed proved to be willing and skilled in the not very easy job of well digging. The first one he dug was for Carl Christiansen, then he dug wells for Fred Pedersen, Mrs. Christensen and John Petersen. The dirt and mud was loaded into five gallon pails and pulled up by windlass. On one occasion the mud filled pail was left too close to the edge and when the hook was released, the pail and mud fell down the 40 ft. well and just missed Ed.

The homestead he chose was SE22-36-3. In the fall of 1904 Ed pitched his tent. One day he was away cutting logs for the cabin he planned to build. When he returned a wood pile next to the tent was on fire; had he been a little later he would have lost his tent and all his possessions.

In 1905 he built a log house of peeled logs - notched, fitted and the cracks plastered with lime. The grassland on the homestead enabled him to make an excellent sod roof. The sods grew together and there was no problem with leaking roof.

He bought some furniture in Calgary, then borrowed a team and hay rack from Carl Christiansen to haul the things from Innisfail to his homestead. Fred Mecklenburg was with him on this trip. On the way one horse became sick and Ed remembers the neighborliness of the Conns. They gave them sweet nitre for the horse, covered it up with straw and gave the fellows a place in their home for the night. In the morning the horse was as good as new.

Next day after returning the team and rack, Ed started to walk back home. There was about a foot of fresh snow and the going was even slower due to an injured knee. Finally the knee played out and he lay down in the snow to rest and sleep. It was not too cold and his bear skin coat kept him from freezing; but most of all, there was a chill inside because it was Christmas Eve!

He bought a team of horses, one a small "cayuse", the other a big mean one. The cayuse was easy to break but the big one was a biter and kicker. This was not a very satisfactory team for breaking land so Ed traded them for a fat team with a streak of laziness,

which got nowhere in breaking. He decided to try oxen - the first two were Shorthorn steers and they were so wild they almost dumped Ed into a 20 foot well. Finally he got three bulls. One weighed a ton, one was little and the third was short legged. They were not much for looks but they sure could pull the breaking plow! After Ed's fifteen acres were broken, he did custom breaking.

Ed's contacts with Dickson church and community life were quite close in spite of distance. He remembers walking with shoes and socks in hand through mud and water a foot deep, to L.B. Christensen's home for services.

The young people's gatherings were always festive occasions - he remembers especially the gathering where he met Sena Adamsen - and all the other Adamsen young people when they arrived in 1907. Once he invited the young people for dinner - guess they thought he couldn't cook for they never came. Word got around that he had to eat his baked ham all by himself, because one day he was surprised by a lively group - a lumber wagon full of young people - what fun!

Because of the abundance of moisture, he raised a lot of oats on his cultivated land - if you measured it by the foot it grew as tall as a man.

Having two jobs and two interests was alright for a few years but finally it became clear that Calgary (population 7,000) had to be his choice for making a living.

In 1911 he married Sena Adamsen. He bought from Mr. Myrthu, N1/2-35-3. In 1913 he turned this land over to P.P. Adamsen in exchange for his house in Calgary.

E.P. continues to live in Scarboro Manor. He is enjoying old age: as he says "I just began to really enjoy life at 75." He has passed that by ten years now and is still going strong.

The Hanson children are:

Marjorie passed away at age nineteen.

Lydia served as a missionary to China and later Japan from 1937 to 1956. She married Rev. Norman Foster and they are serving the Evangelical Lutheran church in Ponoka.

Marion married Rev. Archie Morck and they are serving the Evangelical Lutheran church in Swift Current, Sask. They have seven children.

Edward married Ruth Nilsson and lives in Red Deer. They had three children.

Charles passed away at three months of age.

Myrtle (Mrs. John Thackray) lives in Lethbridge and has three children.

Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Hanson had been married 53 years at the time of Mrs. Hanson's passing Nov. 5, 1964. "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:28-29.

Ed Hanson is now deceased.

HARDER

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harder and Mr. and Mrs. Peter (Slim) Harder lived at Spruce View a short

while. They lived on the Roberts farm about 1956. Mr. and Mrs. 'Slim' Harder and family later lived on the Chas. Andersen place. Having musical talents, they were often called on to help entertain at community gatherings. They live at Drayton Valley.

Henry and Peter Harder are brothers of Mrs. Roberts.

FREDERICK ALEXANDER HART

Frederick Hart was born in Miles City, Montana in 1883. He married Bernice Beebe in 1910. Mrs. Hart was born in Miles City, Montana in 1890.

Mr. and Mrs. Hart moved to Alberta in 1913. They moved household effects, one cow and six horses by rail to Red Deer. Son Ralph was six months old.

They bought a quarter section on the Stauffer Flats to accommodate their livestock. In 1915 they homesteaded the Tay River ranch. The family moved to Rocky Mountain House while Mr. Hart built a house on the homestead. Son Elmer was born that year. On the Tay River Ranch the closest neighbor was seven miles away at the Ranger Station. Their more frequent visitors were the Stoney Indians.

In 1926, the Harts moved to Spruce View. They bought E1/2-23-36-3-W5 the property which had contained the original Spruce View school house. There were no buildings on this property so the family moved to Innisfail until Mr. Hart got a house built.

While in Spruce View the boys played on the Spruce View Fastball team. Other members of the team were Frank Vandaele, Charlie and Cedric Anderson, John Booth, Dean Paul and the Heinsen boys. There was keen neighborly competition with Heckla and Red Raven.

Mr. Hart, who was always an ardent fisherman and hunter, retired in 1948. Harts sold the farm to Bransons of Craig. Merle Branson lived there for several years. After retirement, Harts moved to Cloverdale, and later to Winfield, B.C. Fred Hart died in 1951 and Mrs. Hart passed away in 1963.

Mr. and Mrs. Hart raised five children: Ralph of McBride, B.C., Elmer of Heffley Creek, B.C., Marjorie (Mrs. Pollard) died in 1950, Doris (Mrs. Bob Boyden) of Edmonton, and Neva (Mrs. Dewey Browning) of Ricinus, Alberta.

E1/2-23-36 was originally owned by the C.P.R. who sold to W. Atwater. Atwater lived in the U.S. and in 1907 he offered this land to James Lewis for \$3.00 per acre.

HEATHFIELD — HILDERMAN — by Ken Hilderman

Eric Heathfield was born in Wales. He came to Canada during World War II and returned to stay in 1946. Kenneth Hilderman was born in Calgary, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Adam Hilderman.

"Eric and I came first to the Raven district and started work Sept 1, 1949. Our first residence was an old granary on the P.O. Gardner farm. From there we moved to the old Lonneberg house, east of Dickson, for one day; then to a trailer owned by V.R. Nielsen at Spruce View for about three months. Next we moved upstairs in Borge Nielsen's truck garage. From

there to the old garage on the Hans Andersen property between the hall and Adams Service. We opened our first store in 1950. In 1954 Eric went back to England to attend his father's funeral. On his return we built our present store and residence.

We had only planned to stay in this area for one month but the friends we made persuaded us to stay so we went to Calgary, gave up our jobs and returned here to stay. When we arrived the power lines had only been surveyed.

During the first week in January 1950, the temperature dropped to -50°. We moved into the house with the Gardners after the roof of our shack caught fire one cold night. During this same winter Eric came down with the flu. As we were always together, both of us were put in the hospital. The nurses became confused as to who was who, so we both ended up getting needles. When the doctor sent the bill he addressed it to Heathfield-Hilderman and stated the amount. I am sure he too was confused.

I took up the art of fishing and have done my part toward making the popularity of grayling fishing in the Red Deer River well known throughout Alberta. Both Eric and I engage in hunting. We have lots of home movies of hunting in the west country and fishing at Swan Lake before there were any roads into the lake. We have also played a part in the Dickson Fish and Game Assoc. Eric was the first Cub Leader when the Scouts and Cubs were organized in Dickson. We helped start the Spruce View Curling Club and are members of the Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson.

Since 1965 Eric has been contracting for A.G.T. and has been working all over Alberta from east of Edmonton to the Montana and Saskatchewan borders while I have been trying to look after the business we have built up in this area. Recently Eric took another trip to the British Isles.

From a modest beginning, we started with a 1941 Chevrolet car with our material and tools in the trunk, to our store, two trucks and six employees of today we have tried to grow with the community in all ways.

HEINSEN FAMILY

Martin Heinsen was born in 1850 in that part of Denmark known as Schleswig. When this part was taken by Germany, all young men were forced to serve in the German army. It was then that Martin decided to start a new life for himself. He made his way to a seaport and boarded a ship to United States.

He operated a hardware store in Kennard, Nebraska. In 1878, he married Magdalene Petersen who had come from Denmark with her parents.

Mrs. Martin Heinsen passed away in 1905. Martin Heinsen joined a group of friends, in 1909, coming to see for themselves the possibility of obtaining land at Dickson. His impression of this area must have been favorable, for the following spring he returned to Dickson with his son, Hein.

Martin bought S.W. 18 - 36 - 2 from Knut Parsons. Hein bought N 1/2 - 36 - 3 from Alfred Schilling. Both returned to Nebraska for the winter and

prepared to return in the spring, bringing Hein's wife and family to their new home.

Martin lived on his farm until he sold it to Peter Mosgaard in 1920. He made his home with Hein and family until buying S.E. 26 - 36 - 3 - w5 from the Hudson Bay Co.

Martin was a kind man, with a keen sense of humor. He was highly respected and well known for his generosity. Many a newcomer was given a helping hand. This particular quarter was heavily wooded but in a few years he had cleared some land, erected buildings and established a comfortable home for himself. He raised sheep, chickens and a good garden, including a fine rhubarb patch which was shared by many of the neighbor ladies. A good housekeeper, he enjoyed cooking a meal for his grandchildren or neighbor boys. His specialty was chicken or rabbit soup.

About 1927, he bought his first car, though he was now 77 years old. Some amusing stories are told of him learning to drive, until he finally learned that a car does not stop for "Whoa".

His main interest was the Lutheran church which he attended regularly. He was keenly interested in politics and community affairs. Martin passed away in 1932 at the age of eighty-two and is buried in the Dickson cemetery.

Hein Heinsen was born in Kennard, Nebraska, Aug. 22 1881. On Feb. 8, 1905 he married Christine Petersen, whose parents had come from Denmark. She was born June 27, 1885. Hein and Christine lived at Kennard where four of their children were born, Martin, Raymond, Erma and Frederick. Three more were born in Canada, Julia, Esther and Leonard. In March 1911, the Heinsen family arrived in Innisfail by train, where Mrs. Heinsen and children stayed, while the men went to the farm to make things ready. With them they brought most of their household effects.

The main source of income was from shipping cream. Pearly Tromberg came each week to weigh and test the cream before putting it into barrels and hauling it to Markerville. Hein milked as many as seventeen cows by hand, often with the help of his wife, until the children were old enough to assist in this twice daily chore. About 1920, he purchased a threshing machine, a Moodie separator and stationary engine pulled by horses, so each fall threshed grain for many of the neighbors. The twine band on each sheaf was cut by hand, usually by Mr. Bancroft, before being fed into the machine. During the winter grain was hauled to the elevator in Innisfail by sleigh, a distance of twenty miles. To alleviate the boredom of the long trip it was common to see several outfits travelling together, the men perhaps all riding in the lead sleigh. They might walk beside or behind the sleigh, the exercise warming their bodies.

When blueberries were ripe Mother and children would pack a large picnic lunch, hitch the horses to the democrat and drive to Andrew Hansen's place at Rich Hill, a distance of some 15 miles. If the berries

were plentiful or in case of a rainstorm, they would stay overnight.

Many summer evenings were spent playing ball, Hein joining in with the children. Winter evenings were spent visiting neighbors, especially Ole Olesen's or Jake Hansen's, playing cards 'til the early hours of the morning.

The boys helped start the first Dickson skating rink which was located south of the present manse.

Church was attended regularly. All seven children were confirmed in the Dickson Lutheran church and most of them sang in the choir. Mrs. Heinsen was a member of the Lutheran Ladies Aid and also of the Red Cross at Spruce View.

They had a telephone installed in 1918.

Young Danish boys coming over from the old country often came to the Dickson district and stayed with someone until they got used to the Canadian ways and language. Two, who came and stayed at Heinsens, were Peter Skau and Magnus Schlesinger. Magnus married and became a fisherman at the west coast where they make their home. Many times each year, "Mom and Dad" Heinsen received flowers, cards or a letter from Magnus and Delia in appreciation of the hospitality shown him when he was a stranger in this new land. Peter bought land nearby.

Hein served on the Dickson school board and was for many years a member of the Drainage Board. He attended all meetings faithfully, preferring to walk there although it was six miles to McKean's where the meetings were usually held.



Heinsen Family — L. to R.: Erma, Raymond, Fred, Hein, Leonard, Grandpa Martin, Christine, Esther, Julia, and Martin. The day of Martin's confirmation.

In 1942, he sold the west quarter to Ray, and later sold the home quarter to Leonard, and he and Mrs. Heinsen retired to Innisfail. In 1955, they were honored on the occasion of their Golden Wedding by a large crowd of friends and relatives at Spruce View Hall. Ten years later, still in fairly good health, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, being honored by the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church in Innisfail, at a social in the church. Hein passed away in 1969, on their 64th wedding anniversary. Mrs. Christine Heinsen passed away in 1970.

The Heinsen girls worked in various homes in Calgary. They were members of the Spruce View Ladies fastball team. Others who played on the team at that time were Marg Vandaele, Lily Bystrom, Freda Bardal, Norma Nielsen, Dorothy McBeath, Christie Budvarson, Greta Pearson and Marjorie Hart.

Martin Christian took a business course at Garbutt's College in Calgary. He was employed at Castor, then returned to Spruce View and bought N.W. 27 - 36 - 3 from the C.P.R. farming in partnership with Ray. He traded quarters with Leo Schmidek (S.W. 1/4) and lived there until moving to Calgary in 1955, where he was a bookkeeper for a construction company. In 1967 he returned to Innisfail to care for his parents. Keenly interested in sports, Martin played with the local ball teams for many years. He was active in all community affairs and served as secretary for many organizations.

Raymond bought N.E. 27 - 36 - 3 where he and Martin batched. He married Dorothy McBeath in 1935. After selling his land to L. Schmidek he bought N.W. 12. He sold several acreages to people wishing to move into the area after the first store was opened by R. Vanderberg. In 1955 Ray sold to T. Jorgensen and moved to Red Deer where he was employed by the T. Eaton Co. He passed away in 1963 and is buried in Alto-Reste Memorial Gardens, Red Deer.

Ray and Dorothy had three children Edward, Dale and Donna. After high school Edward studied to be a psychiatric nurse and is employed at Deerhome in Red Deer. All three children took dancing lessons and have often returned to entertain in our local hall. Dale is now in Dawson Creek B.C. He is married and has two children. Donna is in Calgary.

Erma married Kenneth Templeton, son of Mrs. Jack Reilly of this district. They lived in Calgary. They had two children Yvonne (Mrs. R. Fisher) of Innisfail and Norman of Nanaimo B.C. After her husband's death in 1951, Erma and children returned to Spruce View and lived with Martin for a short time before moving into Innisfail. Erma died in 1953 and is buried in Innisfail.

Frederick bought his grandfather's farm S.E. 26-36-3 in 1935. In the winter time he sawed wood for neighbors, using a stationary engine and saw. In 1937, he married Annie Bickley of the Ridgewood district where her parents had homesteaded in 1900. Annie had been teaching school in the Craig district. Both are interested in community affairs and Fred has served on many committees to promote projects in the district including the Co-op store, school and hall. He also served on the Boy Scout Group Committee. Annie is a member of the Spruce View Ladies' Club.

They have two sons. Bill has his Bachelor of Education degree, is married, and lives in Red Deer where he is Principal at West Park Junior High School. Gordon is now employed in Calgary after receiving his degree in architecture from the University of Manitoba.

Julia married John R. Booth. (see Booth)

Esther married Dean Paul (see Paul)

Leonard worked for farmers before buying N.E. 1/4 12 from his Dad. He married Alice Thorlakson in 1944 and they have two children. Maureen (Mrs. Garry Horton) of Edmonton has three children. Dwayne, a member of the R.C.M.P. is married and stationed in Vancouver. Leonard is known for his musical ability and still plays regularly for dances.

Leonard, Alice and family moved to Innisfail in 1955 and now live in Eckville. They recently renovated the old log house on the farm and spend the weekends there in the summer time. It is one of the oldest buildings in this area, built by the Chas. Schilling family in 1902.

HOSZOUSKI

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Hoszouski and family are newcomers to our community from Cremona, Alberta, having bought SE21-36 and NE24-36. They have four children Dale, Gerald, Joy and Ronald.

ROY HOVEN

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hoven came here in 1963 when Roy began teaching at Spruce View. Roy is from Gaetz district and he married Eileen Szymanek of New Hill. Eileen was active in 4-H work there. Roy is a member of the Recreation Board and of the Spruce View Co-op Board. Eileen belongs to the Women's Guild, and both have been active community workers.

They have four children - Heather, Wendy, Karen, and Janie.

RICHARD AND MARY JENSEN (the former Mary Lunde Christiansen)

Richard and Mary came to Spruce View in 1962. Both were born in Denmark. They rented Richard Pedersen's farm for one year when they first came to this area. Richard is a carpenter and has built many homes in this district including their own modern home in Spruce View.

They are members of the Dickson Lutheran Church, and Mary was Girl Guide Leader for some time. Both have been members of the Spruce View Curling Club.

Mary is presently employed at the Christiansen Locker.

There are four children: John studying medicine at the University of Alberta; Egon of Calgary; Joan (Mrs. Pauquette) of Rocky Mountain House; and Henning at home.

HOLGER JOHANNSEN

Holger Johannsen lives on SE19-36-2 which was originally C.P.R. land.

JOHN C. JOHANNSON

John was born in the Pine Hill district to Icelandic parents, Hromundur and Gudrun Johannson. He took his schooling in that district, then moved with his parents, three sisters, and two brothers to Calgary. His parents remained there until their passing.

John moved back to the Markerville district where he worked in his later youth as a trucker and farm hand. In 1933 he began working with John Hillman of Evarts as carpenter and telephone line repair man.

In 1944 he married Evelyn Hillman who was teaching at the Old Raven school at the time. They lived in Tindastoll district, then in Calgary for a few years before moving back to their farm at Centerville. John started building on his own and has been doing that type of work ever since. He helped build the Evarts school in 1934, the Heckla school in 1938 and was in charge of additions to Benalto and Dickson schools. Many homes and farm buildings in the area were built by him.

Evelyn taught at Centerville, HOLA and Dickson. She has been teaching Grade 1 since the new Spruce View school was built.

Johannsons have eight children-

Donna (Mrs. Oliver Nelson) of Heckla; Dell (Mrs. Hans Tiedemann) of Lethbridge; Allan and Brian employed at Red Deer; Lyle, Curtis, Findlay and Trudy are at home.

The Johannsons purchased a home in Spruce View in 1965. They still have their quarter section farm and farm it themselves.

The family belongs to Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson. Evelyn has been on the Sunday School teaching staff for a number of years. John has been an active member of the Spruce View Co-op and Curling Club.

Donna and Dell were very active in 4H Sewing and Garden Clubs. Both won awards and trips to Olds. Donna achieved the highest award, a trip to the Toronto Royal. Curtis is presently president of the Spruce View 4H Beef Club.

CHRIS and VIGGO JOHNSEN

Chris and Viggo were born in Denmark and came here in 1936 after farming for several years in the Wintering Hills, south of Drumheller. They bought SE Sec. 19 from Louis Jensen. They farmed it and did custom work in partnership, using horses and equipment brought up from the prairies. Chris now owns the place and still farms it. Chris also enjoys fishing the streams of the west country.

In 1942 Viggo and Jenny Hindbo were married. They started out farming the old John Jensen homestead NE2, 1-1/2 miles north-west of Dickson. After farming it and land owned by Alfred Schilling and Mrs. Onsum, they bought the west half of Sec. 13 from Mrs. Onsum in 1945. They have lived on this land since 1948.

In 1958 twelve acres facing highway 54 were sold to accommodate the new Spruce View School.

There are four children in their family, Ralph, Barbara (Mrs. Charles Hansen), Joan and John. The Johnsen family are members of the Bethany Lutheran Church.

ROBERT JORGENSEN

Robert Jorgensen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1906 and came to America in 1927. He came to Spruce View in 1947 after having made a trip to Denmark to visit his father and sister. He bought a lot from Joe Nicholson, built a house and has lived there since. A painter by trade, he is especially busy in the summer months. Any job he undertakes will

receive his most careful attention. A quiet, unassuming man, Bob has been generous in donating time and paint to community projects. He served a term on the Hall Board. Being an ardent fisherman, any spare time he has is spent along the streams or lakes of the west country.

JORGENSEN FAMILY

In a little country called Denmark, Thorvald Jorgensen was born on Aug. 27, 1902. He took his education in Denmark and at the age of 14 he had his first job as a laborer. He decided to venture from his land to another and Canada was the land he chose. In 1926 he and a friend arrived in Halifax by boat. Canada, seemed a very large country beside Denmark, but they went west by train, arriving in Alberta.

In Wayne, Alberta, Thorvald worked for Rasmussen as a farm-laborer. In the fall of 1927 he came north and settled in the Spruce View area on the land he rented from Johanna Andersen and Mary Larsen of Los Angeles, California. This land NW12-36-3-W5, he later bought. Two years of batching was enough, so on Oct. 24, 1929 he married Bertha Nielsen.

Bertha was born in Jylland, Denmark on Sept. 15, 1903. One day her brother Chris decided to leave for Canada and with a lot of persuasion talked Bertha into coming along for one year. In April 1928 they left for Canada by boat, arriving in Halifax. After twelve or fourteen sea sick days on the boat she didn't know how her brother had talked her into leaving Denmark. Travelling west for days, they finally arrived in Innisfail and then on to Dickson by lumber wagon. Bertha was already homesick and one year seemed an awfully long time to be in this big land where the language was such a barrier. A promise was a promise, so job hunting she went. Her first job was in the Heckla district where she was employed by Nels and John Nelsen. She travelled back and forth on horse back to Dickson where she attended Dickson Lutheran Church and a Young Peoples' group. Travelling around on her horse in her spare time, she met a young man, named Thorvald Jorgensen.

Thorvald made life in this country a lot more pleasant, but by this time her year in Canada was up. What was she going to do? Back to Denmark with her brother or stay and make an eligible bachelor happy? Well. . . she decided to stay. She and Thorvald were married at Dickson. Honeymoon? One may know it wasn't too far. They lived on his farm and I imagine, lived on love for sometime as money wasn't plentiful but work was. A lot of chores, cutting fire wood, clearing land, breaking land, were just a few of the things that confronted them.

In 1930 they were blessed with a daughter Edna. Now they had something to really call their own. Bertha spent most of her time sewing, cooking, doing chores and keeping track of Edna and her dog.

In 1933 they were blessed with another daughter Gudrun (Goodie), who was supposed to have been a boy.

Thorvald rented a quarter south of him from Pete Mosgaard. He purchased SW7-36-2-W5 from Chris Nielsen. Thorvald was an ardent hunter and fisherman. Two weeks of the year was spent big game hunting. Hunting in those days was a really profitable thing, as money was scarce and meat a necessity.

Besides looking after his home and family, he was a very community minded man. Thorvald served on the first Spruce View Hall Board. Two years later when the Co-op Store was built, Thorvald served on the Board.

Bertha was an active member of the Dickson Lutheran Church and their Ladies Aid Group.

Edna married Jens Hindbo at Dickson. They have three children, Janet, Gail and Donald. They farmed in this area until 1966 when they moved to Tappen, B.C.

Goodie married Gordon Kure. (see Kure)

Instead of retiring, Thorvald purchased another quarter NW12-36-3-W5 from Ray Heinsen in 1955. On Christmas Eve, 1956, Thorvald died suddenly from a heart attack. After five years on the farm, Bertha's health started to fail. She decided to sell the land and build herself a home in the hamlet of Dickson. In 1960, Gordon and Goodie Kure purchased NW12-36-3-W5 from Bertha. Olson Bros. bought the home place NW18-36-2-W5 and SW7-36-3-W5. In 1962, she moved to her new home, living there until her death — July 4, 1964.

KAPPEL — by Karen Andersen

I had three brothers come over from Denmark.

Hans Kappel came in 1927. He married Gladys Thomson of Dickson and they live in Calgary. They have two daughters — Irene (Mrs. Lyle Bliss), and Helen (Mrs. Geo. Lewis).

John Kappel married Marie Paulsen. They live in the Spruce View district. They have two children — Lloyd and Doris (Mrs. Fred Liddell).

A third brother, Paul came with John in 1928. By accident he was drowned in the Red Deer River the same year. He was just nineteen years of age.

KEILLOR

Sidney and Chandler (Chet) Keillor were pioneers who homesteaded S16-36-3. Mr. and Mrs. C. Keillor's was a stopping place for anyone who cared to spend the night or get a meal. Mrs. Keillor was a sister to John Chatwood of Craig. She died in 1919. They had one daughter. Sidney Keillor sold to A. Schilling. Chet sold to A. Richard who sold to O. Olesen.

KNUD KNUDSEN

Knud Knudsen, Andrew Olsen and Fred Schmidt were three bachelors who came to homestead about 1903.

Knudsen lived on SE28-36-3-W5, now owned by Harvey Jensen of Innisfail. He was married shortly after coming here. He and his wife Katrina lived here until about 1923. They were a thrifty couple and did very well for themselves over the years. Mrs. Knudsen made bread and butter which she sold to the neighbors. Mr. Knudsen gathered up the cream from



K. Knudsen's home from which Spruce View got its name.

the neighbors and hauled it to the Markerville Creamery. On the return trip he would bring the mail and groceries. It was Mr. Knudsen who was responsible for giving us the name of our district. He applied to establish a post office at his house but was not successful in getting it. Had he been given permission, he had planned to call it 'Spruce View' and in preparation had made a large sign across the front of his house. He chose that name on account of the abundance of spruce around his farm. The house is still standing. He sold his farm to the Soldier Settlement Board and moved to the U.S. Both were killed in a railway accident.

SE28-36-3 was then sold to Frank Donnelly. He was a bachelor. A family by the name of Gladhill came and lived with Donnelly for a few years. Donnelly and Gladhill were veterans of World War I. Mr. and Mrs. Gladhill had a family of four.

NE28-36-3 was rented by Sniders. Then the Roy Miller family of Craig lived there about ten years. It is still owned by Semotons.

NW28-36-3, now owned by Ben Hoskin was homesteaded by Fennur Johnson who received his land title in 1908. Others who have owned or rented this quarter are Mrs. R. Onsum, L. Stanton (1923), Frank Coleman, Potter, Scoular (1946) and Mike McLean.

JENS KOBBERO

The Kobbero family came to Spruce View in 1961. Jens and his wife, the former Ruth Jensen were born in Denmark as was their eldest son Bent.

When Denmark was occupied during the Second World War, they worked for the freedom of their country by becoming actively involved with the underground. After the excitement of the war they found the calm of the post war years difficult to adjust to. They decided to emigrate to Canada because of the promised freedom of opportunity.

They came to Sydney, Nova Scotia in 1951, where Jens took up his trade as carpenter. After living in Sydney for two years and having been blessed with the birth of their second son, Henri, the family moved on to Calgary where their third son Jan was born. Jens and Ruth decided to strike out on their own. They moved to Spruce View where they rented and then bought property from Howard Thompson.

Jens, with the help of his wife, transformed the old Vanderberg store into a multi-purpose business establishment. In 1961 they opened the Stop Inn Cafe which was a totally new experience for them. When the success of the Cafe was assured, they expanded and opened a banquet room which will now accommodate 60 persons. The next year they added motel units and since 1968 have operated the Spruce View Post Office in part of their building.

The eldest son Bent is now employed as a cook at the Capri Motor Hotel, Red Deer.

KUEHN FAMILY

Among a group of newcomers arriving in this area during the depression years were John Kuehn, his wife and family of three, Adeline, Emanuel and Eric. Elsie was born while they resided here.

John Kuehn was born near Lublin in Poland, of German parentage, in 1904. Following his compulsory military training, he became restless and hearing of the opportunities in Canada, he decided to emigrate.

In June 1929 he brought his wife, the former Bertha Krampit and three children to Edmonton where John worked as a coal miner and farm labourer for five years. It was through Mr. Herman Fredrick, a family friend in Europe, that John became acquainted with this area. In 1934 he bought SE1/4-27-36-3-W5, C.P.R. land, for which he paid \$8.50 per acre. Logs were cut and made into a house and necessary buildings. Mrs. Kuehn helped in the fields, burning brush, picking roots or stooking grain whenever or whatever was needed. It was extremely hard establishing a home in this new land.

The family were members of Craig Lutheran Church. John Kuehn helped with community projects and served on several committees. In 1943 he bought SE10-36 from Mr. Dohlman Sr. and lived there a few years. He sold to Paul Gundersen and bought three quarters of land at Manning, Alberta where he now resides.

Adeline married Waldemar Lemke. They farm in the Diamond Valley district. They have four children Philip, David, Sharon and Dianne.

Emanuel joined the R.C.M.P. He is stationed in Vancouver. He is married and has four children.

Eric, a truck driver, married Donna Day of Red Deer. They had three children and lived in Vancouver. Eric passed away very suddenly in 1968 at the age of 38 years.

Elsie worked in Red Deer until her marriage to Allen Hiedebrecht. They have four children and live in Edmonton. Mrs. Kuehn is now deceased. Many families have lived in the buildings for varying lengths of time. Among these have been Sam Ennis', P. Gibbons, Bill Fokkens, E. Hoggs', Chandler Bros. the Mason family, and Sam Shippelt family.

JAMES LEWIS FAMILY by W.J. Lewis

James Lewis was born in Staffordshire England in 1867. At nineteen years of age he came to York, Nebraska, where he worked on farms and ranches until he married my mother.

Mother was born in Joliet, Illinois U.S.A. in 1876 where her family farmed. In 1879 they moved to Bradshaw, Nebraska where they took homesteads.

Father and Mother farmed in Nebraska until 1904 when they immigrated to Innisfail along with three children, Philip born in 1898, William born in 1900 and Chester born in 1903.

The first place we lived on, later became known as the "John Carr" place, and I think it was also known as the "Good" place about eight or ten miles east of Innisfail.

Two of the first men my father got to know in Innisfail was Geo. Bryan and G.W. West, of whom he spoke very highly.

Later on, in the summer of 1904, Dad got acquainted with John Walters who had homesteaded N.E.18 - 36 - 2 - W5, now owned by Ellwood Thompson. Walters took my father out west of his place and showed him S.E. 14 - 36 - 3 which Dad homesteaded. We moved on to it March 4, 1905. At this time nearly all of the land east of us had been homesteaded but west of us it was all open until you got to Berry's on the Raven River or south on the Raven to Bob Shannon who had been there a long time.

Our post office and nearest trading place at this time was Markerville where Benedickson Bros. ran a store and Dan Morkeberg had the creamery. This was a long eight miles to the north east as the roads followed the high ground or wherever you could keep out of the mud and water. The first graded road - now Highway 54 - was built past our place in 1910.

Our first home was a log shack with a sod roof 12' x 16' - not much for a family of five, by today's standards.

During the winter of 1906-07 my father hauled lumber from Jack Hart's and Jack McElroy's sawmills west of Raven with a two horse team, to Innisfail, for two dollars and fifty cents per thousand feet or \$3.75 per trip. He made three trips a week. He would leave home in the morning, go west to the mills to get his load and be back home at night. The next day he made the round trip to Innisfail.

Three more children were born to my parents. George in 1907, Alfred in 1914 and my sister Bessie in 1919.

Mother died in 1919 and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mosgaard took and cared for my sister who was three weeks old at the time.

Philip and I started to school in Dickson in the spring of 1907. Miss Elmhurst was the teacher. We went to Dickson until the Spruce View school was built in 1913. That school was one and a half miles north of the present hamlet.

My brothers and I spent our young lives walking to school at Dickson, hunting the milk cows (it was open range then) and trapping muskrats and weasels in the winter. Most of our trapping was done on Sec. 11 - 36, before Dickson Drainage, where there were sloughs and water was everywhere. Saturdays and Sundays found us west on "Martin's Lake" (named for the late Bill Martin, founder of Martin's Cartage, Innisfail) now owned by A.C. Martinson. Bill Martin

homesteaded N.E. 10 - 36 now owned by Jeppe Hindbo.

The hides we sold to Carl Christiansen in Dickson, at nine cents one year to eighty cents another time. For many years we did our trading and got our mail there - mail once a week.

One of the highlights of the early days was the first telephone system which came in 1918. About that time came the change over from horses to farm tractors, and cars became a common sight. Our first radio was bought in 1926. Things were pretty good until 1930 when the depression hit. It took until 1938 to get that straightened out. Many cars and tractors did not run in the early 1930's because there was no money to buy gas and oil.

One of the great dangers to the first settlers was the prairie fire. When conditions were just right in spring or fall, a fire could go for miles without anything to stop it but the rivers and creeks. There were no graded roads. Many homesteaders lost nearly all they owned by these fires.

A man by the name of Ed. Donaldson homesteaded N.E. - 14 - 36. He built a slab shack about the middle of the quarter, then took work in Calgary. Intending to return in the spring, he asked my father to buy some seed grain for him, also some hams of meat. This Dad did, putting the grain into a small granary and burying the meat in the grain as was the custom at that time. Late in November, a fire swept across that area. Though all farm buildings had a fire guard plowed around them, my father was afraid this fire might jump the guard. He took my mother and the children from the house and had them stay on the plowed ground until the fire passed. The granary of seed grain was burned and the meat thoroughly cooked. Donaldson gave up the farm and went to Calgary. Charles Anderson bought the quarter, rented it to my father and later sold it to him.

N.W. - 14 - 36 was homesteaded by Harry Anderson who traded it to my father for 25 head of Aberdeen Angus heifers.

The first land was broken with two or three horse teams with wooden beam walking ploughs. About



Mr. and Mrs. James Lewis, Philip, Chester and William.

1914, a Mr. Vanslyke of Red Deer invented a breaking plow which used seven or eight horses. This was the first real good plow this country had.

As to the weather - my father often spoke about the winter of 1886-87, the first winter he was in Nebraska. It was extremely cold and many cattle died in central U.S.A. and southern Alberta. Again in 1906-07 many cattle perished in southern Alberta.

In 1919 I was working on a cattle ranch in the Knee Hill Valley. On May 3 a storm started and lasted three days. Cattle had already been turned out on summer range and the loss was very heavy. The following winter, one of the longest on record, started Oct. 17, 1919 and did not break until May 13, 1920. Feed was very short and high priced. We hauled green feed bundles from the Big Bend country, dug them out of thirty inches of snow and paid twenty-five cents each for them. Even so, we were glad to get them.

My father passed away in 1957, a few days before his ninetieth birthday.

Philip worked as a diesel engineer. He was with the Hay River Northern Transportation Co. for fifteen years. In 1924 he married Violet Harden, a local girl who was a school teacher. They now live in Eckville.

I (Bill) stayed on the farm.

Chester married Audrey De Long in 1926 and they had one daughter, Betty (Mrs. E. Hart) of Vauxhall. They lived on the home farm until Chester's death in 1930.

George H. married Ann Edwards and they have five daughters. They live in Calgary. Harry was a barber at the Holy Cross hospital for thirty years.

Alfred married Hilda Oberg. They have one son, Zane, and live in Victoria, B.C.

Bessie married Arnold Gundersen and lives in Spruce View.

WILLIAM J. LEWIS FAMILY

William J. (Bill) Lewis came to Spruce View with his parents in 1904. As a young man he worked on various farms and ranches in the Knee Hill area and in southern Alberta. He also worked on the irrigation ditches in the south before returning to farm with his father on SE14-36-3-W5.

He married Ivy DeAith in 1924 and they have lived on the farm ever since. Ivy was born in Folkstone, Kent, England, the youngest of twelve children. She has many memories of World War I, of seeing six brothers go off to war, of the sound of planes coming over to drop bombs, of the many buildings, including schools which were destroyed.

Ivy's sister Grace (Chaplin) had married and was living near Markerville. In 1920 she returned home to England to see her Mother who was seriously ill. After their Mother's death Ivy decided to come to Canada with her sister. The trip by boat was a long rough one, then several more days on the train before they arrived in Innisfail on April 18. There was still lots of snow on the ground and Ivy remembers the good sleighing all the way to Markerville.

Ivy found work in Innisfail and worked there until her marriage.

Bill and Ivy have taken the lead in several community projects including the selling of Victory Bonds during World War II. Both have served on numerous committees and are always ready to do their share of the work. Ivy has been Sec. Treas. for the hall since 1955 and still looks after the bookings. Bill was recently presented with a Life Membership in the local curling club, in appreciation of his help in getting the rink started. He served as the first president of the club. Their friendliness and hospitality have made them a host of friends.

Though Bill has now reached retirement age, he is by no means idle. He is the handyman on the farm, doing the welding and repairing when machinery breaks down, besides taking his turn in the fields during each busy season. Bill and Ivy moved into a trailer home, close to the original home where Bob and Bernese (Hillman) now live. After working on oil rigs a few years Bob returned to farm with his Dad. Bob and Bernese have six children: Wayne, Wendy (Mrs. Danny Larsen, of Dickson), Brenda, Jacqueline, Lori and William John.

Since finishing school Wayne has been farming with his Dad and Grandfather making the fourth generation to farm the same land.

Bill and Ivy have four children: James, who drives a transport truck between Fort St. John and Whitehorse, Robert and George of Spruce View and Jean (Dulaney) of Red Deer.

George and Helen (Kappel) and three children: Caroline, Gregory and Cameron live on an acreage in Spruce View, a part of his grandfather's homestead. George is employed by Hudson's Bay Gas and Oil.

ALGOT MARTINSON by Mrs. A. (Rose) Martinson

"Algot was born in Sweden and as a young man came to N. Dakota with his sister. I (Rose) was born in S. Dakota. We both worked in Saskatchewan and Algot rented land there. We were married Jan. 14, 1925 at Shaunavon, Sask. and farmed through the 'dry' years. Algot and four of the neighbors came up to see Central Alberta and liked the country. By June 1933 we were ready to leave Sask. Another family came with us. Altogether we had four wagons with teams and a saddle-horse. A neighbor boy, Allan Booth, drove one of our teams. We travelled west across Alberta via Drumheller, crossing the river by ferry. It was a very enjoyable trip. Our only worry was that the horses might stray during the night.

We had been on the road 18 days when we came to MacDonald's at Raven. This looked like a good place to stop for they had a large yard where the horses could be safely fenced in. It was pouring rain by now but we were treated royally by Mr. and Mrs. M.S. MacDonald. We stayed there while Algot drove around to inquire about land for sale. He heard Alfred Schilling had a quarter he would sell though there were no buildings on it. We turned back to SE15-36-3-W5 and have lived here ever since except for one year in Ontario. There were lots of trees on this land, in fact, we had a hard time finding room for our caboose. It was still raining when we got there.

We have two daughters. Eleanor was born in Scottsguard, Sask. She married Bud Sandberg of Dickson. They have four children and live in Lacombe. Marie married Brian Hammond of Innisfail. They have two children and live in Ithaca, New York. Brian attended Cornell University and obtained his doctorate in 1969."

Note: Mr. and Mrs. Martinson have always had a keen interest in the community and Algot served on the hall Board several years. In 1968 they flew to Sweden to visit Algot's sister and brother. Much of their time is spent visiting with their daughters.

Rose passed away in 1971.

CARL MATSON — Violet Matson

Carl, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Matson, grew up in the Craig district.

We began farming around April 1, 1958. Carl was still drilling for Hi Tower Drilling Company in Innisfail. We had a fairly good house, barn and pumphouse, also had electricity, telephone and a good electric pump on the well so didn't suffer any hardships.

Herman Fredrick and the Eric Matson family lived a mile north up the road, so helped us in many ways.

I put a lot of work on the yard and as June rolled around I realized I had a nice lawn, shrubs and a rose bush. Carl purchased a tractor and plow, and with the help of some of Eric's equipment, he put in his first crop. We built two granaries and bought two purebred sows. Our brother-in-law, Evald Larsen, gave us a purebred boar which I raised from a small pig. We were thankful for the two granaries full of grain that fall. We bought our first good milk cow, Bessie.

Carl went on a camp job at Swan Hills in November so I was alone until February, when Carl came home to stay. In the spring we bought five more milk cows and started to ship cream. Carl and Eric worked together putting in the crop and haying.

In 1960 we hired Henry Mottl with his caterpillar to clear fourteen acres of land. My brothers helped us build a new larger hog barn. In 1962 our well went dry so we hired Forresters to drill a new one.

The summer of 1967 was hot and dry so the land baked hard. Carl purchased a bigger tractor and cultivator to make the field work easier.

As a centennial project we painted the house, barn and pumphouse which sure brightened up the place. We also bought a new truck.

The ten years have gone fast on these "Little Green Acres" but we have been independent and always had a good living. We enjoy our livestock and our dog "Sport". We also realize there is security in the farm.

MCBEATH

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McBeath and daughter Dorothy came to Spruce View in 1919 following his discharge from the army. They lived on NE26-36-3-W5. Donald McBeath, better known as 'Mac', was born in Scotland in 1869. Mrs. McBeath, the former Elizabeth Plummer was born in England. During World War I, she served as a nurse while her husband was with the army in France. Through their

interest in community activities, they made many friends here who were shocked to hear of Mrs. McBeath's sudden death in 1930.

'Mac's' friendly, jovial nature suited so well the part of Santa Claus which he played at Bethel Christmas concerts. In 1933 he married Winnifred Jones and they had four children Donald Jr., Barbara, Ivor and James. They moved from Spruce View in 1938 living for a short time at Sylvan Lake before making their home in Edmonton. Donald McBeath Sr. died in 1956 and is buried in Edmonton.

In 1935 Dorothy married Raymond Heinsen. She now lives in Red Deer.

JAMES McQUEEN

"Scotty" McQueen came from Scotland about 1930 and worked for many farmers in this area. He was an excellent stock man especially good in the handling of sheep. He enlisted at the beginning of World War II and remained in active duty during the entire five years. On his return he spent much of his time at Vandaeles. He enjoyed curling and helped get the curling rink started. Always dependable and cheerful, he made a host of friends who were grieved to hear of his sudden passing in 1960.

MELROSE

The Melrose brothers Lloyd and Jack took over the garage about 1955. It was known as the Hi Way Service Station.

HERMAN MIKKELSEN by Jessie Mikkelsen

Herman Mikkelsen was born in Denmark and came to Canada with Hans "Gardener" Andersen, about 1928.

Herman went to Saskatchewan where he joined his two brothers who had come to Canada sometime before him. They purchased a farm, but due to drought they gave it up and moved west to the Maple Creek area. The two brothers returned to Denmark to stay.

Herman worked near Maple Creek, before coming west to Dickson to join Hans Andersen who was trying to start a market gardening business. Herman had worked with Hans in his green houses in Denmark but they found there wasn't much money in this type of work here, so Herman went to work for Jens Norre. Irene Norre was still going to school and she taught Herman to read and write the English language.

Herman married Jessie Plummer in March 1937. "I was born at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. We made the journey to Dickson in a Model T Ford. The snow was piled high on the sides of the road from Calgary to Innisfail, in lots of places higher than the car. Huge puddles of water lay between the snow banks. When we would meet a truck, the muddy water would come through the side curtains and splash all over us. It would be impossible to see through the windshield and Herman would guide the car along until he could stop. Then he would get out and wipe it off, and on we would go again.

We wondered whether we should stay in Innisfail overnight and go to Dickson "on the frost" next mor-

ning, or try to make it before nightfall. We decided to keep going and by detouring through the fields, we did get to Chris Nielsen's that night.

It was around midnight when we drove into the yard. Gas lamps were burning and several people including Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen came rushing out of the house. There was much talking and hand shaking and I was thrilled to receive such a royal welcome. We went into the house for lunch and coffee. I didn't understand a word they were saying so it took me several days to realize, that though they were glad to see us, most of the excitement was over the fact that they were doctoring a very sick sow which was about to have babies.

There was no frost that night. It was at least two weeks before another car or truck could get over that road to Innisfail. We would have been pretty hungry by that time!

One August morning Carl Morkeberg came along in the cream truck. He was looking for some one to drive the truck, preferably one who could speak Danish as well as English. Herman went with Carl that morning and drove the cream truck for several years. When the roads were impassable, he used horses.

That fall we rented and moved to the Paul Isaakson farm, across from Bernard Forrester. We scraped up enough money to buy seed wheat -222- from the elevator. A good crop was coming along, when in July a hail storm flattened it all.

We moved to Markerville and rented the remodelled building that had been the first creamery.

We rented various other farms in the area until 1949 when we bought NE 15-36-3 from Neil Price. A small house belonging to Ralph Hart was moved in by movers from Red Deer, at the same time as they lifted the Pearson house on to its foundation.

This land is now rented by Paul Gunderson and Herman lives at Armstrong B.C.

Teddy was born while we lived at Markerville. He is married and lives in Calgary."

ARNE MOHEIM

Arne Moheim was born in Norway and came to Canada in 1929. He married Estelle Davis in 1935. Estelle was born in Red Deer. With his wife and two small children Ellen and Fred, he came to Spruce View in 1947. They bought a small acreage from Bill Kerkkonen who had bought from John Sandberg. Bill Kerkkonen had built a small house on this property and lived there a short time. He was a shoemaker but Spruce View at that time did not have people enough to support this business. Bill is married to Estelle Moheim's sister and they live at Lumby, B.C.

Arne Moheim has worked at the Penhold Canadian Forces Base for many years. Estelle is a valued member of various organizations in both Dickson and Spruce View and is always a willing worker. She has assisted in a number of homes in times of illness or a mother's absence.

In 1953 Moheims moved to an acreage north of Dickson. They are members of the Dickson Lutheran Church. Estelle is presently leader of the Brownies.

Ellen married Clifford Andersen and they live in Spruce View on part of her father's original acreage. They have four children Dale, Brenda, Reginald and Duane.

Arlene (Mrs. Clifford Ross) lives at Olds.

LUCIEN MOREAU

Mr. & Mrs. L. Moreau came to Spruce View in 1962 buying an acreage in the hamlet from J.R. Booth. They built a lovely, modern home in which they lived until they sold to J. Mundell. In 1967 they bought SE 21 from Travis Rowles and have built another fine home. Lucien works for an oil company. They have four children, Joanne, Marie, Jeffery, David.

PETER MOSGAARD

Peter Mosgaard was born in Denmark, the oldest of thirteen children. He spent much of his time with his grandparents. The family name was Petersen but there were so many Petersens that Pete changed his name to Mosgaard. This name was taken from the name of the farm ('gaard' meaning 'farm').

About 1910 he came to Seattle for a short time before moving to Calgary, and then to Kevisville. His homestead was SE 10-35-4. He moved to Spruce View and rented NW 18-36-2 where he built a house and barn. Martin Heinsen was living on the quarter south of Pete. The half section was homesteaded by Knut Parsons who had built a house in the middle of the land. When a fence was to be built separating the two quarters, it was found that the house was standing on the fence line. Everett Snowdon moved the house with his eight horse team. In 1920 Pete bought SW 18 from M. Heinsen and moved there. The log house was lived in, until Arnold Gundersens built their new home.

Peter married Augusta Eliassen (nee Christiansen) of Dickson. They had one daughter, Bessie, whom they adopted as a small baby when her mother, Mrs. J. Lewis, passed away. Mrs. Mosgaard died in 1928. Bessie married A. Gundersen and Pete made his home with them until he passed away in 1954.

RALPH NEEDHAM

Ralph Needham was born at Rowley, Alberta. The family moved to Eckville where Ralph completed his high school. He served three years in the Signal Corps taking his basic training at Camrose and advanced training at Kingston, Ontario and Nanaimo, B.C. He served for ten months in the Aleutian Islands. After his discharge he returned to Eckville in June 1944 to work in the Eckville Co-op.

The following year he married Dora Greenman, who was born at Granum. They moved to Spruce View in 1945 where Ralph had accepted work at the Co-op Store. They were valued members of the community for nine years.

Ralph was always interested in sports and in 1946, he organized a baseball team. They played in a league with Red Raven, Caroline, Stauffer and Markerville and won their share of glory. He coached the hockey team for one year. He was an ardent fisherman and big game hunter and went on many fishing trips with

Viggo Andersen, Orville Tronnes, Fred and Leonard Heinsen and other interested parties.

The Needhams remember the severe blizzard in March, 1948. The snow was piled so high, that the story went around, that Otto Zimmerman's Volkswagon was buried in a snow drift and Dean Paul drove over top of it with his team and sleigh. The Municipal election was the next day, with the voting at Dickson. Mike Dvornek drove his school bus to Dickson with voters and they had to shovel the road nearly all the way.

Ralph and Dora left Spruce View and moved to Acadia Valley in 1954 where Ralph became manager of the Co-op Store. In 1962 they moved to Drumheller where they still reside.

Six children were born to the Needhams; Dennis, Lawrence, Duane, Timothy, Lorna and Jody.

NICHOLSON FAMILY

Joe and Grace Nicholson and family came to this area from Berrymore, Alberta in 1938. They first made their home with Jorgens Andersen on the farm, now owned by Lyle Olesen. The older children worked out. It was during this time that they were victims of a fire which destroyed their home. Joe, Grace and small son Bill spent many weeks in hospital with severe burns. Joe was our 'friendly Watkins dealer' and became well known throughout the area. He always had time for a short visit while selling his products. In 1943 they moved to Spruce View having bought an acreage from Ray Heinsen. Joe served on the Hall Board and Grace was a member of the Ladies Club. Grace passed away in 1950. They had four children: Harold, George, Zelma and Bill.

Harold went overseas in 1941 as a member of the Signal Corps in which he served four years. On his return he farmed where Ray Mundell now lives. He also lived in the Markerville area. He is married and has one daughter Patsy.

Zelma (Toots) married Clifford Reesor. She is now deceased. George is a plumber at Rocky Mountain House. Bill joined the Navy at an early age and is still in the service. He lives at Comox, B.C.

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Nicholson (the former Hazel Vanderberg) live in Red Deer.

The acreage was rented to various families. Mr. & Mrs. Leo Clark and family — Leo worked in the local garage; Hal Wright and family — Hal operated the garage which was started by Howard Thompson east of the Stop Inn Cafe. Mr. & Mrs. John Mundell are the present owners of the Nicholson acreage.

V.R. NIELSEN by Helen Nielsen

Verner Nielsen, only son of the late Henry and Ingaborg Nielsen was born at Wisner, Nebraska, in 1909. He came to Canada as an infant, with his parents. The family settled east of Dickson on NE31-35-2.

In 1927 the Henry Nielsen family took up a homestead in the Crooked Creek and Kevisville district. They cleared land and built a large house. Besides son Verner, they had three daughters —

Edna (Mrs. Eugene Robertson), Vera (Mrs. Earl Snowden) and Bertha (Betty). Henry passed away in 1931 and Ingaborg in 1934.

Verner and I were married in 1934. I was Helen Stephanik, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stephanik who lived in the Rich Hill district. My father passed away suddenly while working on a threshing outfit Dec. 18, 1932. Verner and I stayed with my mother to look after the farm and do chores. We worked out part time to earn some extra money as these were the depression years. My mother passed away in 1941 and my brother George took over the farm.

In 1939 and 1940 Verner built a sawmill and we went out sawing logs into lumber at Kevisville, Caroline, Olds and Bowden.

By 1944 our oldest daughter was ready to start school so we were looking for a place to make a permanent home. We bought five acres of land from Ray Heinsen in the Dickson district. There were two stores - Vanderbergs and the Co-op operating at what was called the "Dickson Corner" and later to become the hamlet of Spruce View. People were moving in around the "Corner" so we thought it would be a good place to settle. In 1945 we moved our skid cook house and all our belongings, cleared the land and started to make this our home.

When the war was over, things began to look a little brighter. We bought a three ton truck and planer so Verner did general trucking along with the sawing and planing.

We have four children - Verda (Mrs. Ken Wills) lives in Innisfail and has three daughters. Marlene (Mrs. Edward Potter) lives at Whitecourt. They have two children. Larry is married with three children. They live in Calgary. Cheryl took a Secretarial course and works in Red Deer. One child, a son, died in infancy. We have continued to improve our place.

In 1968, we put in a trailer court with six stalls and wash house.

Note: Helen and Verner are staunch supporters of all local projects and are most generous in donating their time to the betterment of the community, including the Spruce View Hall, skating rink and curling rink. Verner has served on the hamlet committee.

OLEFF N. OLESEN

Oleff Olesen was born in Tiffin, Iowa in 1876. He married Hansine Pedersen in 1897 in the Kimballton Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Olesen was born in Denmark in 1871 and came to U.S.A. in 1890. She had learned the seamstress trade while in Denmark. After she was married, she made good use of her trade, sewing for their family of eight children. The children were all born in the U.S.A.

While living in Hamlin, U.S.A. they operated a barber shop and pool hall, later a hardware store and a butcher shop. They also ran a hotel before coming to Canada.

In 1918 they came to the Bassano district where they farmed for five years. While there the only form



Oleff Olesen Family — Back: Peter, Harry, Elmer, Anna, Hans. Front: Leo, Father, Thelma, Mother, Myrtle.

of entertainment was house parties. Some of their neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Jens Norre, Gerlev Andersen's, Andrew Nielsen's, Hugo Bergess', Jack Currant's, Soren Norre, Andy Andersen, and Jim Jensen. Because of the drought everyone was forced to look elsewhere for suitable farm land.

In 1923 the Olesen's and all their neighbors moved to the Dickson area. Olesen's bought S.E. 16-36-3. Mr. Olesen was pound keeper for a number of years.

Mrs. Olesen passed away in 1951. Mr. Olesen remained on the farm until 1963 when he moved to Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail. He passed away in 1967. He was predeceased by two sons, Hans and Elmer. Both died in 1962.

Other members of the family are: Harry, Coon Rapids, Iowa; Anne (Mrs. Chambers) of Innisfail; Peter of Sylvan Lake; Leo and Myrtle (Mrs. Chris Paulsen) of Spruce View and Thelma (Mrs. E. Linneberg) of New Hill.

ELMER OLESEN

Elmer married Finna Bjarnason of Heckla. They lived on N.W. 22 - 36 - 2 - W5 and had seven children. Ellen (Bennett) lives in B.C. and has six children; Leonard of Calgary; Louise (Jackson) lives in Foremost, Alberta; Douglas of Heckla has five children; Ronald married Anne Teide of Strathmore. They farm the home place and have four children; Roberta, Bret, Carmen and Lisa; Mayette (Stanley) of Florida has three children; Marlene, (Mrs. Wayne Linneberg) of Rocky Mt. House has two children.

LEO OLESEN

Leo married Bertha Barret of Berrymore and they live on N.W. 17 - 36 - 3. They have three children: Joyce, Lyle and Gordon. Joyce (Mrs. Jack Walker) of Edmonton, has one son. Lyle married Marilyn Walker of Heckla and they farm in Spruce View district. They have two children, Janice and Michael. Gordon lives at home and farms with Leo and Lyle.

ANDREW OLSEN

Andrew Olsen homesteaded NE28-36-3, the quarter directly north of Knudsen, about 1903. He lived alone until 1920, then married. He was a very quiet man but enjoyed visiting with his neighbors.

The story goes that Olsen and Knudsen had some disagreement over the fence line resulting in each one building his own fence. Their land was thus separated by two fences just a few feet apart.

Andrew Olsen died about 1930. In 1932 Mrs. Olsen sold the land to Bill Semotok.

PAUL FAMILY

Harry Paul was born in 1873 in Pennsylvania. As a young man he worked on the Pennsylvania Railroad and also in the Silver mines of Colorado. He returned to Penn. to railroading, where he met and married Annie E. Powers who was born in Penn. in 1871. Following a train accident in which his brother was killed, Harry Paul decided to emigrate to Canada.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Paul and two sons, Clyde and Glen, came to the Sheppard district near Calgary where they ranched. Clyde and his father spent many days and nights rounding up cattle along the Bow River. Harry Paul took great pride in his horses and won several prizes at the Calgary Fair.

A third son, Dean, was born while the family resided at Sheppard. In 1920 they moved to the Horseshoe Lake district east of Innisfail and in 1927 to Markerville where they rented land owned by J.S. Gingrich. In 1928 they bought W1/2-26-36-3. The south quarter was H.B. land, the north quarter they bought from Dan Schmidek. This land was heavily wooded with poplar, balm and willow. The first clearing was done by Mr. Paul and Dean using a push brush cutter and Hart Parr tractor. The hardest and most tedious job was the root picking. Later clearing was done by Skocdopole of Condor with caterpillar tractors. In 1937 they built a house on SW26 and lived there until Mr. Paul passed away in 1947.

In her younger years, Mrs. Paul had trained as a seamstress and this training was put to good use to supplement the family income. She sewed for many of the ladies in Innisfail where she was well known for the fine work she did. She was a member of the Bethel Ladies' Aid and the family were members of the United Church. During both World Wars she did a lot of sewing for the Red Cross. Mrs. Paul lived in her own home on the farm beside Dean and family until her 90th birthday. She then moved to the Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail where she continued to sew and make quilts as a hobby. She passed away in 1967. Both Mr. and Mrs. Paul are buried in the Innisfail cemetery.

Clyde operated a motorcycle shop in Calgary for many years. He is married and has two children.

Glen attended Normal School and taught in Alberta schools for many years including two years at the old Spruce View school. He attended Stanford University to obtain his doctorate and has made his home in California since. At present he is Superintendent of Schools in Humboldt County. He is married and has one daughter.

Dean farmed with his Dad. He lived near Markerville until 1943 when he moved to his present farm to be near his parents. In 1937 he married Esther Heinsen. They had two children. David lives in Edmonton. He is married and has five children. Charlene (Kirkham) lives in Vancouver. She has two children. Esther passed away in 1952.

In 1953 Dean married Elizabeth deYong who was born in Holland and came to Canada in 1947. Betty is a member of the Spruce View Ladies' Club. They have three children Harry, Agnes and Richard.

PAULSEN FAMILY

Jens Peter Paulsen was born at Dragstrup, Mors, Denmark in 1882. Mette Kristine Madsen was born at Skallerup, Denmark in 1885. They were married at Dragstrup on April 17, 1906.

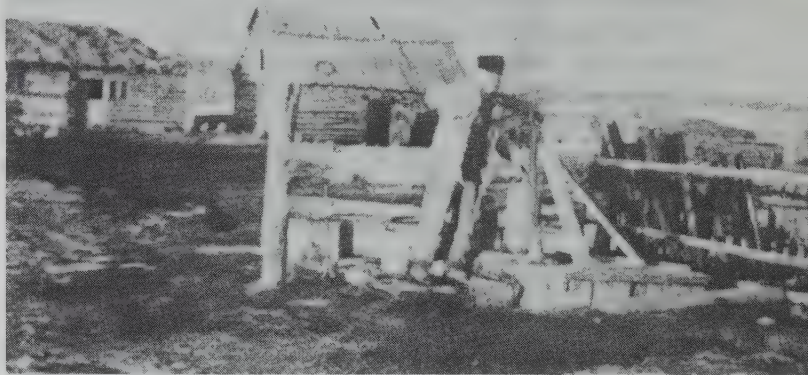
Mr. Paulsen came to Wetaskiwin, in 1928 and was employed as a bricklayer. Mrs. Paulsen and two younger children came in 1929.

Their son Kresten was working for Mr. and Mrs. F.S. McKean at Dickson. He rented a quarter section of land from Clarice McKean in 1931, so the family moved to Dickson to farm for five years. They moved to New Westminster for a year, came back to Alberta and purchased land three miles west of Spruce View.

They were members of the Lutheran church at Dickson. Mr. Paulsen was one of the original members of the Corner Co-op.

There was a terrible bush fire in 1931 that came to within a mile of their home. Their first crop was a complete loss due to a severe hail storm which passed through the New Raven area.

Several of the New Raven teachers boarded at the Paulsen home. The first one was Mildred Anderson from Benalto, next was Dorcas Boote from east of Penhold, then Mary Dolphin from Raven.



Mr. Paulsen pumping water.

Recreation was mostly visits with neighbors and friends, sometimes playing cards or pitching horse shoes, or singing, even dancing. Most houses were a little small for that.

Transportation was by a very unreliable older model car, made into a truck with a white oil cloth for the cab. Kresten and his Dad were out driving one day when a hail storm came up. They sat under the truck until the storm was over. There were twenty-three large holes in the oil cloth. In winter they travelled by horse back or by sleigh and of course, walking was never crowded.

There were six children in the family, all born in Denmark.

Paul came to Wetaskiwin in 1927. He married Helga Sorensen. They have one son and three daughters and live in Vancouver.

Kresten married Elly Christiansen of Spruce View. They have two daughters and live in Vancouver.

Martin came to Dickson in 1932. He married Audrey Bennett. They live in Calgary and have two sons and three daughters.

Laurits made his home in Denmark, where he married and had one daughter. He passed away during World War 11.

Kristian married Myrtle Harden and they live in Spruce View on N.W. 16-36-R3. They have two children, Lloyd and Irene (Mrs. K. Cave), who reside in the Spruce View district.

Marie married John Kappel (see Kappel).

Mr. Paulsen passed away in 1955 and Mrs. Paulsen in 1969. Both are at rest in the Innisfail cemetery.

THE DAVID PEARSON FAMILY

"I, David Pearson, was born at Glamis in the County of Forfarshire, Scotland, in one of the old time toll houses, where tolls were formerly collected for the upkeep of roads. This was just a quarter mile from the entrance to the Castle of Glamis, which Shakespeare writes of in his play "MacBeath". My parents went south to England when I was quite young, where my father superintended the laying out of several sewage farms, one of which he was manager for many years. I, therefore, grew up in northern England and received my schooling there. This was in the County of Durham in Northeast England.

My wife, whose maiden name was Jane Sewell, was born in the teeming County of Durham at a village named High Lands. I doubt if Durham County was as large as the County of Red Deer, but there were more people living there than there are at present in the province of Alberta, so one can see what a change it was to come to a much sparser settled country. I enjoyed it right from the start, but it took my wife longer to get adapted and get over her fears that a bear or some other dangerous wild animal lurked behind every bush.

Three of our children were born at Low Lands. Our fourth child was born here in Canada, so we do have one real Canadian in the family.

Perhaps it may be of interest to say how we came to settle where we now are in Alberta. I had always had a desire to go to Canada, and when our final decision to emigrate was made, I went to the old walled City of York, in the next County to the south, and there interviewed a representative of the Canadian Government. On meeting this gentleman, he gave me all the help he could, and explained that all of us would have to be able to get a certificate of physical fitness from a Doctor. He then gave me several volumes in which were listed farms all over the Dominion of Canada, and told me take my choice. To us, raised where land was at a premium and very costly, it was difficult to realize there could be so much vacant land. However, I picked on the location we now live on, chiefly, because it was listed as being only 1-1/2 miles from school. We left Liverpool for Canada on May 26, 1926. When we got here, we entered into an agreement with the Soldier Settlement Board and bought the place we now have. I don't think we have ever regretted it.

We have had the usual ups and downs of farm living, but we have been blessed with good health. And, there is one more in the family than we brought

with us - all in good health so far, and we all grew to like the land of our adoption."

The Pearson children are - Stanley of Spruce View; Greta (Mrs. Floyd Shanks) of Worsley; Donald of Sundre; and Edna (Mrs. Harvey Jensen) of Innisfail. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson have six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Note: Mr. Pearson has a long term record for public service and in 1973 is still councillor for the County of Red Deer.



D. Pearson family coming from England — 1926.

He has served as school trustee since coming to the district, first on the local board and then as county member. In 1968, he was given a Long Service Award from the Alberta School Trustees Association recognizing his 41 years of service (to education).

In 1967, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties presented Mr. Pearson with a 25-year Service Award as a "respected citizen and councillor of the County of Red Deer No. 23 - 1941-1967 - who distinguished himself and contributed to the progress of his community and a better life for his fellow citizen."

As councillor, he has served on many committees including the Red Deer Regional Planning Commission.

MORRIS PETERSEN

The Petersen family were early Danish settlers around 1912. They lived on NE24-36-3-W5 which was originally homesteaded by Frank Andersen. Their three children, Celia, Agnes and Lester attended school at the old Bethel Church. Along with Mr. Lacy Cook, Mr. Petersen was instrumental in forming the Spruce View School District. His name was given the school district: Petersen School District No. 2744, and then changed to Spruce View according to the Alberta Gazette Vol. 8-10.

Petersens must have left about 1913. Their present whereabouts are not known.

GEORGE J. POTTER

George Potter was born in England and came to Canada in 1910. He worked in Calgary several years and is a veteran of World War I. On Sept. 20, 1920 he married Constance Jorgensen who had come to this district in 1904 from Denmark.

"We resided in Calgary for seven years and during that time we had four children Harmon, William, Audrey and Cornelia. In 1927 we moved to Vancouver where two more children, Violet and Jack were added to our growing family. In 1934 we moved back to Alberta and settled in the Red Raven district. Here Edward, Burnita and Diane were born. We lost Cornelia in 1936.

We bought the Kevis farm in 1939 and farmed there for fifteen years. In 1949 we purchased Featherstone's Coffee Shop in Spruce View which we operated until 1966. I was a member of the Danish Ladies Aid and am now a member of the Spruce View Ladies Club. We are both members of the Anglican Church and of the Canadian Legion. I am a member of the Royal Purple and George is a member of the Elks Lodge. All our children are married except Harmon, who lives at home. Audrey (Mrs. G. Farr) and William live in Calgary; Jack and Diane (Mrs. S. Konabeat) in Edmonton; Violet (Mrs. W. Wood) in Grande Prairie; Edward at Whitecourt and Burnita (Mrs. D. Loewen) at Nelson B.C.

We live in retirement in Spruce View now."

THE PRICE FAMILY

Robert Price was born at Athena, Oregon on January 10, 1867 of Welsh Scotch ancestry. His ancestors went to Oregon from Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Indiana between 1846 and 1850.

He married Rozella Ely in 1889. Her Irish, English ancestors were also early Oregon pioneers. She was born at Athena, Oregon on July 24, 1867.

Their six children were born in Washington. The first one died in infancy. The other five; Alfred, Neal, Mary, Wallace, and Louella went with them to Alberta. They lived in Whitman Co. Washington until 1909 when they moved to Airdrie, Alberta. They moved their family and belongings there by train. They even took a team of horses with them. They rented a farm near Airdrie until 1915 when they took out a homestead in the Clearwater country near Rocky Mountain House. They moved there with wagons. From here they moved to the Baldwin place SE31-36-2, west of Markerville. They rented this place from Baldwins who were friends of theirs from Washington. They lived here for three years while looking for a place to buy. They purchased W1/2-23-36-3 and moved to Spruce View District in 1920. Before moving they made fences and necessary buildings, cleared some land and planted a crop so they would have feed for their cattle and horses.

Mr. and Mrs. Price were members of the Christian Church in Washington. They attended some church services held at the Bethel Church. Mrs. Price belonged to the Bethel Ladies Aid. Mr. Price belonged to the U.F.A. He also was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Innisfail for several years.

There wasn't much time or money for recreation in those days. Each year, there was a Bethel picnic and each Christmas, there was a program at the Bethel Church put on by the Spruce View and Craig Schools.

The Price family was well-known for its hospitality. There was always a meal and a bed for weary travellers who stopped at their door. They were avid readers and kept well informed on events of the day. They were reserved, yet friendly and kind and possessed a keen sense of humor. As citizens of the community, they supported all worthy projects.

Mr. Price lived on the farm until he passed away in 1957 at the age of 90 years.

Alfred lived with the family in Alberta until they settled in the Clearwater Country. He decided to return to Washington. He was a veteran of World War I. After the war, he married and raised a family of eleven children. He died in 1968.

Neal, in the earlier years, spent part of the time as a cook for threshing, road building, or lumbering crews and earned a reputation as a good one. He then farmed with his father and brother, Wallace, until his death in 1958.



Price Family — Mr. and Mrs. R. Price, Alfred, Neal, Mary. Sitting: Luella and Wallace.

Mary attended Mount Royal College in Calgary, working and earning her A.T.C.M. in music. She taught music for several years and had many pupils in the Spruce View area. She also taught music near Edmonton. When her mother's health began to fail, Mary returned home and took care of her until her death in 1938. Mary kept house for her father, Neal, and Wallace until she succumbed to illness in 1947.

Wallace returned to Washington to work. In 1933, he returned to Alberta and farmed with his father and Neal. Recently, he spent some time working in Saskatchewan. In 1970, he sold the farm to Dan Hoover, and moved to B.C.

Louella finished her education in Washington, staying with her brother, Alfred. She taught school several years. She married Edward Palm and lives at Northport, Washington. They have three daughters.

Shortly after Neal's death, the Dan Hoover family from Washington came to make their home with Wallace and assist with farming. Mrs. Evelyn Hoover is Wallace's niece — the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Palm. Hoover's have four children - Lucinda, Joselyn, Duane, and Esther.

MILTON RACHO

Milton (Bud) Racho was born in Bradford, Ontario, Jan. 12, 1892 and spent the early part of his life there.

When World War I broke out, Bud then a young man of 19, enlisted in the army. His group was given a vigorous basic training in Ontario, then on to Kootenay, B.C. and back to Ontario where Bud completed a machine gunner's course at Camp Borden.

In September 1915, Bud, now a member of the 54th Battalion, shipped out from Halifax aboard the Carpathia bound for France. The crossing took ten days to complete due to the necessity of following a zig zag course to evade the Germans. Bud fought for four years and three months in France. He was wounded twice, in the trenches surrounding Vimy Ridge and still has a piece of shrapnel in his left leg.

Of the many memories Bud has of the war, perhaps the proudest one for him is Dominion Day 1916, the day when the Prince of Wales, now the Duke of Windsor, presented him with the military medal for bravery in the field. The hell of Vimy Ridge is also etched deep in his memory, the scream of artillery, the deaths of his comrades, the stench, the rain, the bombs. Bud vividly remembers the sometimes successful attempts of the Germans to gas the boys in the trenches, although he recalls with a chuckle, that a change in the wind often gave the enemy a taste of their own medicine.

At war's end, Sgt. Bud Racho received a five year service medal and a Victory medal. As soon as his discharge was complete he gave away his uniforms, put the memories of war behind him and came to Alberta to start a new life.

Bud has worked for many farmers in the area around Markerville and Spruce View, always proving to be a most dependable employee. He has also done a considerable amount of painting throughout the area.

Bud is a member of the Innisfail Branch of the Canadian Legion and of the Elk's Lodge.

For several years he had his house beside the Ken Rhodes family on NW30-36-2. When Ken Rhodes sold his farm, Bud moved his house to Spruce View where he lives in retirement.

EDWIN REID

Edwin and Jean Reid came to Spruce View in 1956 when Ed took over as manager of the Co-op store. Ed was born in Olds and lived in the Vale View district. In 1953 he accepted a position with the Eagle Hill Co-op store and two years later married his boss' daughter, Jean Robertson.

Jean and Ed are valued members of our community, always willing to give a helping hand with any project. Jean has assisted with the Brownies in Dickson and is a member of several other

organizations. They are members of the Dickson Lutheran church, also of the Spruce View Curling Club. They have three children Alan, Christine and Douglas.

ED. RICHTER

Ed Richter bought NW22-36-3 from Ralph Hart. It was homesteaded by Sam Rhodes in 1921.

ROBERTS: CHRIS AND ROBERT J.

Chris Roberts, and Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Roberts and family came to the district in 1956 having purchased SE21-36-3-W5 from Ingeman Jensen. Robert was born in 1898 and came to Canada in 1924 with his older brother Chris, to Coaldale, Alberta, where they engaged in farming. They batched together until 1934 when Bob was married to Susan Harder, who was born in Russia. Mrs. Roberts was active in the United Church and W.I. The first two years in Spruce View were discouraging ones for they were hailed out both years. They bought NE24-36, the former Chas. Andersen place.

Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Roberts have six children William, Gladys, Elwin, Gerald, Edward and James. Bill attended Bible school at Pambrun Sask. for three years. He is married and has three children. Bill and family lived at New Raven while he was employed by the Spruce View Co-op. Gladys married A. Fleming and lives in B.C. Elwin married Marilyn Lonneberg of Dickson. Jim studied computer programming and completed four years University. He is now working in Ottawa.

In 1967 Roberts sold their half section to Anton Hoszouski and moved to Drayton Valley where they farm with their sons.

Chris Roberts has returned to Wales for a holiday.

HENRY ROWLES FAMILY

Henry Rowles was born in Holland, Ontario in 1871. He came to Okotoks with his parents and ranched there until coming to Spruce View in 1918. He bought N 1/2-20 from E.W. Webb. Webb, an English bachelor sold everything to Rowles including the furniture in the house. From here Webb went to China. Henry Rowles accompanied by son Travis and hired man Slim McDonald, trailed up 180 head of horses from the Okotoks ranch. This was their first experience with muskeg and they soon learned how easy it was to get a saddle horse stuck while chasing horses. Many horses were lost in the muskeg in early days. As a horseman, Henry was one of the best. He had a special ability for breaking and training them. For one year Elmer Olesen lived with Henry and rented his land.

In 1927 Henry bought NE 16-36 and later NW 30-36-3. He passed away in 1937 and is buried in Okotoks.

NE 16-36 has changed hands many times. It was homesteaded by a Mr. Olson who sold to Mrs. Harden. She sold to her son-in-law, Herb Riley, who traded the land to Henry Rowles for a house in Okotoks. Henry sold to Jorgens Andersen in 1933. Andersen sold to Charles Lamond. Charlie and Dorothy Lamond and two children Elsie and Elda



Henry Rowles and daughter.

lived there several years. They now reside in Innisfail. The farm was sold to Mrs. Ellis and family and now belongs to Lyle Olesen.

Travis Rowles grew up at Okotoks. He was always interested in horses and worked around the High River area on different ranches, breaking horses and freighting. He came to this area in 1918 with his father. That fall he helped thresh for neighbors. The crew consisted of John Dietz, K. Knudsen, Dagmar, Maggie and Gus Sveinbjornson, Henry and Travis Rowles. Knudsen's entire crop that year was 240 bushels.

In 1937 he bought SE 21 and has lived there since. For many years he was a member of the Hall Board and gave much of his time to help with community projects. Travis also served on the Drainage Board and operated the Hog Buying Station on SE 15. He has a remarkable memory. In 1967 Travis sold his farm to L. Moreau but kept his house and acreage where he and Katie still live.

Katie Lamb (Rowles) came to Spruce View in 1931 to spend some time with her Dad, Henry Rowles, who was in ill health. She had been cooking for work gangs and intended to return to her work. But she liked the country, the fine food and security so she decided to stay. Born and raised in the city, she found farming quite a new experience. Katie was often called on to help the neighbors at threshing time. In the '30's she was paid fifty cents a day plus the occasional jar of cream or piece of meat. Being very generous in cooking and serving, she was once reminded by the man of the house that she was "just feeding, not fattening these men". Bachelor neighbors are often invited to share a home cooked meal with Katie and Travis. In 1946 a two year old nephew, Gary Wilson came to make his home with them. Gary is now married and has two children. Katie was a charter member of the Spruce View Ladies Club, and has always been a willing helper.

SABOURIN

Mr. and Mrs. A. Sabourin came to Spruce View in 1933. They lived with Jack Ashe about two months before moving to their own place SW27-36-3-W5. They lived there in a two roomed log shack until 1938, then moved back to Calgary.

Armand was born in Ontario, his wife Bertha in Calgary. There were three children George, Delores

and Frank. Mrs. Sabourin remembers driving with horses and sleigh to the 'ten cent' bridge parties in the old school and the visits of many friends and neighbors. Their small gas lamp was determined to run dry at 11:30 p.m. no matter who their visitors might be.

Armand joined the army in 1939 and went overseas with the first battalion to leave Calgary. He was killed in a bombing raid in England in 1941. He and a friend were the first Canadian casualties.

Bertha Sabourin works as a proofreader at the Albertan in Calgary. The children are all married.

Their farm was sold to L. Schmidek and is now owned by Martin C. Heinsen.

SCHILLING

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Schilling came in 1903 to homestead NE12-36-3. They built the log house which is still standing. They had four children Alfred, Frank, Rose and George. Rose and George attended school in Dickson. Frank's homestead was SW14 (now P. Gundersens) and they also owned SE15 which was C.P.R. land (now Martinsens). Frank was killed in a mine accident about 1912. George went to Chicago to live. Rose married T. Onsum and for many years they owned the whole of Sec. 13-36-3. This section was originally owned by Reid who sold to Tronwizer, owner of a hotel chain in Calgary. He sold to Onsum. Some of the first breaking done on Sec. 13 was done by Beuphard Baker.

Alfred Schilling bought SW16-36 from Keillors and lived there until a few months before his death in 1940. He was a bachelor. This land is now owned by O.V. Oloussen who with his wife, Ruth, and family moved here from Horse Shoe Lake in 1940. They have four children - Kenneth of Calgary; Helen (Mrs. Kutscher) of Findlay, Ohio; Doreen (Peters) of Innisfail and Eric who farms with his father.

Several families rented the Chas. Schilling homestead after the death of Mr. and Mrs. C. Schilling; The Kevis', John Kelly and R.L. Greer of Caroline. It was sold in 1910 to Hein Heinsen.

JERGEN SCHMIDT

Mr. and Mrs. Jergen Schmidt followed Petersens on to NE24-36. They had six children Karen, Ellen, Gunnar, John, Carl and Inge. The older ones attended Spruce View School when it first opened in 1914. They came from Denmark but spoke German. They left in 1919 or perhaps earlier. Some of the family are believed to be living in Calgary.

PETER SKAU

Peter Skau came first to Spruce View in 1925. He came from Brons, Denmark and worked for the Heinsens and the Thompsons. Then he went to Calgary where he worked at cement construction for several years.

In the fall of 1933 he came back to Spruce View and bought a half section from Mrs. Rose Onsum E1/2-13-36, now owned by Emil Budvarson. Here he lived and worked for seven years building a small house and stables, clearing mostly by hand and breaking with horses about 140 acres of virgin land

and planting many beautiful cherry, crab-apple, poplar and spruce trees.

In July 1935 he married Dorothy Powell of Calgary, a school teacher.

"I came to Spruce View, a young bride, an inexperienced housekeeper and a stranger to all except Mrs. Jay Reeser whom I had known for some years.

They were difficult years for all farmers, those 'Hungry Thirties', and especially so for those of us who were just starting out and with nothing! I can clearly remember crying for the taste of an orange and not having the price for such foolish luxuries. I can remember Peter shipping almost half a can of cream to the creamery at Markerville and not getting a cheque because they didn't write cheques for such a small amount, a few cents. I also remember shipping a big boar pig and getting a couple of dollars back, or buying three dozen eggs from Stena Heinsen, to fill a crate I was shipping and when the returns came in, I owed the trucker!

I can remember hail damage to our crop of 75% to 85% three years in a row and no insurance, frost the next year and believe it or not, snowed under the fifth. Needless to say, I also remember the day we lost our precious farm and drove away from years of hope and heart-breaking labour for Peter. Our eyes were bright with unshed tears, sick at heart and afraid to look back.

When I came to Spruce View it consisted of the Vanderberg store, where Hazel and "Van" held forth, and a blacksmith shop across the road. We used to have bridge parties in the school up the road during the winter. What an adventure for me, there in the dim light of Coleman lamps, the warmth of the big pot-bellied stove, and the babies and little ones asleep on the desks which had been pushed to the side. What a happy time we had as we gossiped and played for prizes worth a few cents.

We used to have bridge parties in the warmth of our own homes too. How gay were the drives we had, going to and from. We used to wrap ourselves in quilts and old robes and carry hot bricks to keep us warm. We laughed a lot, sang some and chattered a great deal as we travelled, picking up neighbors along the way. We enjoyed our small pleasures so much more because we had so little.

It was Hein Heinsen who twice raced the stork to Innisfail Hospital when we had no car. It was Bill and Ivy Lewis who deserted the urgent hay field to rush me in with a critical, advanced infection from an extracted tooth. I remember that toothache! It was so bad that I left Peter to baby sit and I started to walk to Innisfail to a dentist - nineteen miles away. Of course someone came along and gave me a ride in and I caught another ride out. People could be depended on to help when help was needed.

I can still see Peter trudging along beside his sleigh loaded with logs for firewood which he had hauled from 'back west'. I can hear the screech of the saw as neighbors gathered to help with the sawing. Fred Hart had the saw, I believe, and he and Hein, Peter and the Heinsen boys would saw the logs into stove

length and throw them into a veritable mountain of cut stove wood. For weeks Peter would split and pile between the biffy and the house and the next year between the barn and the house so he could bring in an armful each time he passed.

I remember the building of the Spruce View Hall by the men of the district. How excited we were and the fun we had there! Will we ever forget the play 'Not A Man In The House', when the men all played the parts of women. Andrew Larsen, Peter and others, after a little liquid fortifier to up the waning courage, put on the performance of the century! Peter was the Irish cook and is there anything funnier than a tipsy Irish cook with a Danish accent?

I remember 'Tubby' and his orchestra playing 'Roll Out The Barrel', and we sang as we danced in those first fearful days of war. Then there was the Hallowe'en Costume Ball when I crept up to the hall, alone, and took the prize for the 'comic' as I fooled even Peter with my Irish Washerwoman.

The Bethel Ladies' Aid will always be a cherished memory too; our meetings at the homes of members; our Christmas program directed by Mrs. Cook; our young student ministers who came each summer and boarded with Mrs. Flake and rode over the countryside to visit their parishioners. I shall remember always the one year I was privileged to act as president.

Katherine and Arthur were born in Innisfail; then Frances on April 30, 1940. But this time we could not get to town in eight hours with a four horse team, the roads were so bad. The neighbors 'out east' heard of our dilemma and offered to provide relays of teams. Dr. Carscallen offered to start out to meet us, but we were afraid to try it for fear we wouldn't make it in time. Carolyn Thomsen and Stena Heinsen presided at the 'borning' many hours later. How well I remember it!

In 1940 we moved to Innisfail where Peter worked for George Thompson's Cement works in the Big Bend. We moved to Calgary and Peter worked for the Dept. of Transport for the duration of the war. Our fourth child Patricia was born there. In 1956 Peter went into business for himself, establishing Pete's Construction. The satisfaction of this independence was cut short when he contracted Multiple Sclerosis which took his life in 1960.

Kathy is married and living at Cobble Hill, B.C. Art is still living at home. He is the Assistant Principal of the new University Demonstration School here. Frances is married to Donald Mortinsen, a farmer in the Tilley district, and they have three children. Pat is nursing at William's Lake, B.C.

I'm still teaching in junior high school. I'm taking University courses each winter and who knows? Maybe someday I'll have my degree too! My father is living with me now and he reminds me that he rode his pony in the Markerville Races in 1905!

WALTERS-SNOWDON

John Walters was born in 1844. His wife Abbie Bell was born in 1861. John Walters homesteaded NE18-36-2 in 1902 and his stepson Everett Snowden

homesteaded SE18-36-2 the same year. The family moved to Canada from Petersburg, Iowa, in 1903. They had one daughter, Wilma, born in 1888. They stayed at the Rhodes home until they were able to build a house on the Walters' homestead. Mr. Walters died in 1916 and Mrs. Walters went to stay with relatives. She passed away in 1934.

Everett Snowdon was born in 1880 and married Stella May Schnell in 1914. Mrs. Snowdon was ill much of the time, and much credit is due Eva and Kathleen who though very young themselves, managed the housework so capably and cared for their younger brothers and sisters. Everett was a good horseman. Mrs. Snowdon passed away in 1949 and is buried in Innisfail. Everett stayed on the farm until his health began to fail. He passed away in 1958 and is buried in Innisfail.

Earl married Vera Nielsen. They lived on the grandfather's homestead until moving to High Prairie. They have three children, Delbert, Richard and Tanis.

Eva married Ewellyn Andersen. They had one son Francis. Eva passed away several years ago. Kathleen (Kate) married Ronald Moore. They had five children Donald (Bud), Faye, Barbara, Ronald and Thomas. Donald (Bud) was killed in a car accident at age 21 years. Donald served in the army five years during World War II. Marion (Mrs. Clarence Cave) had two children. Sandra and Philip. Marion is now deceased. Vernon passed away in 1967. Phyllis married James Armstrong. They have three children Max, Linda and Rocky. They live at Bentley. Lois (Mrs. Elmer Krause) has four children. Betty married Freeman Hileman of Innisfail. They have one son.

Like a monument to this pioneer family, there stands a small grove of trees planted by the Snowdons along Hy. 54, east and across from Elmer Kure's buildings.

L. SPADY

In the early 1950s we were requested to come to a tiny little church called New Raven Gospel Mission. This we accepted. Our work was mainly to do Sunday School work and establish new ones, working with the Canadian Sunday School Mission, an undenominational organization.

The exact date has fled our memory when we landed at our new home beside the little church west of Spruce View Corner. It was here that Mrs. Spady was to see her first hailstorm. How furious it was, can only be explained by saying it cost much glass, shingles, dented tin on cars, chickens, beside all the loss of grain crops, even stripping trees.

We devoted our time to help the people (especially boys and girls) by teaching the Word of God. This was a special joy after we made a move to Spruce View Corner, believing this to be more central. There we were given the kind consideration to use the community hall for this purpose. Here it is fitting to mention the fine co-operation of the parents who brought or encouraged their children to come to Sunday School faithfully. While there may not have been too many who volunteered as teachers we had two

faithful baby sitters, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Jacob Jensen.

To memory comes afresh the kindness and expressions of love of this whole community in the time of our bereavement. Our little girl Miriam almost three years old, passed on to be with the Lord, April 21, 1952, having suffered a brief span of time with leukemia. The Dickson Church not only provided the building for the service, but men prepared the grave. Our second girl Lois was nine months old at this time and we were thankful for her. When we moved away from Spruce View in 1956 to a little place in southern Alberta called Skiff, our Douglas was nine months old.

FREDERICK STEVENS FAMILY

Fred Stevens was born in Peterborough, Ontario and lived there until 1941 when he came to Western Canada. He joined the army in 1942 and was stationed in Calgary. In 1945 he married Beatrice Patterson who was born in Alsask, Sask. She had attended Normal School in Calgary and taught school for five years.

They came to the Spruce View district in 1949 having bought NW21-36-3-W5 and SW28-36-3-W5 from Bill Armstrong. Their first three crops were entirely destroyed by hail, but with a lot of grim determination and hard work, they continued with their new venture.

Fred served on the New Raven School Board, also on the Board of the New Raven Church.

They have seven children. James is married and lives in Red Deer. Mary (Mrs. Larry Jordan) is a Registered Nurse and lives at Kamloops, B.C. Stanley, while attending school, won many honors in Track and Field events. He was a member of the R.C.M.P. at Vancouver. Joan works in Red Deer. David, Lawrence and Valerie are at home.

NW21-36 was homesteaded by Mr. Goodmanson who was given his land title in 1908. It was also owned by G. Sveinbjornson before being sold to Armstrongs, according to an old map.

TAKARYK

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Takaryk and their two daughters lived in Spruce View for a short time. Paul operated a garage until moving to Innisfail in 1955, where he has his own electric and television business.

MARIUS THOMSEN

Marius Thomsen, a blacksmith by trade, came from North Dakota to homestead in about 1907. His quarter section was heavily wooded so he got the idea that goats would help him clear the brush. He bought a few but to his dismay, they jumped the fence and cleared C.P.R. land. His quarter was NW22-36-3, now owned by A. Isbister of Innisfail.

Marius remained a bachelor and was known to say 'I thank my God that I didn't get a wife.' He was a faithful Christian. On Sunday morning he donned his unpressed brown suit, took his walking cane and walked six miles to Dickson to attend church. Once he lost track of the days and walked down on Monday. Disappointed, he walked the six miles back.

He was a good neighbor always ready with a helping hand and good advice. It didn't cause him much concern that he was often cold and lacked proper food. He lived mostly on yeast pancakes and when the thermometer plunged he'd wear his fur cap, sheepskin coat and felt boots to bed to try to keep warm.

If you went to visit Marius and neared his shack, you could hear conversation and laughter. Thinking he had guests you knocked cautiously, and were surprised to find him alone.

Due to ill health, he moved to Dickson in 1945. He then went to Bethany Old Peoples' home in Calgary where he stayed till his death in 1948. He was buried at Dickson.

TRONNES FAMILY

Orville and Gladys Tronnes and three sons Dennis, Bill and Garry, came to Spruce View a few days before January 1949 when Orville took over the management of the Co-op store. The family lived there for the next seven years.

Orville played baseball and hockey with the local teams and also enjoyed many fishing trips into the west country with friends from Spruce View. He has been employed by Central Alberta Dairy Pool since leaving the district.

Gladys was a capable and willing worker in all community projects serving on many committees, besides working in the Co-op store whenever needed. She was connected with the Hall Board, skating rink, Sunday School and Ladies Club. It was her sewing ability which first got 4H started here.

Gladys was our News correspondent. She saved the items for a scrap book which proved very helpful in compiling this history.

Dennis is employed by Canada Packers in Edmonton as a computer programmer. He is married and has a daughter.

Bill became a Chartered Accountant. He lives in Red Deer.

Garry is now connected with Tronnes Surveys of Calgary.

RICHARD VANDERBERG — by Hazel (Vanderberg) Nicholson

The founder of what is now the Hamlet of Spruce View, the late Richard Vanderberg known as "Van" by all who knew him, was born in North Dakota in 1895.

He came to Canada with his parents in 1905, and grew up a part of the farm life of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Later, he farmed with his brother. He also ran steam engines, as he had steam papers. These engines were used for threshing.

In 1920, he moved to Northern Alberta, where he took up a homestead near Hythe. In 1923, he was still single, so he decided to leave the homestead and go out to work. In 1925, he met and married Hazel Snyder of Claresholm, a native Albertan. Van was a mechanic and worked at his trade in Edmonton and Claresholm. In 1929 and 1930, he had a garage at Farrow, later moving the family back to Claresholm.

In the Spring of 1934, after tiring of working under a boss, he decided to look for a country point where he could start for himself, with the help of his wife, of course.

Mrs. Vanderberg tells the story of this enterprise: "Van and a friend took to the road heading north from Claresholm. After looking at several possible locations, they set out to look at a half section that was for sale eighteen miles west of Innisfail. This brought them east of the corner that is now Spruce View."

This corner seemed interesting to Van, giving him the incentive to inquire of some local farmers, as to their idea of a service station on the main road, now Highway 54.

This corner of sec. 13-36-3-5 was owned by Mrs. Onsum. The councillor was S.G. Anderson, and he also took interest in the idea, taking Van to talk to Mrs. Onsum. After talking it over with her brother, Alfred Schilling, she agreed to rent us the two acres we required. Then, we had to wait for the next council meeting for their approval so we could get the necessary licenses.

It was in early June, 1934, when Van came back to Claresholm, all enthused with his coming new adventure.

It was quite a move, with a Maxwell touring car that had been converted into a small truck. It was overloaded, of course. Its load, included three children, and a wife who had never lived in a bush country, and now had no house into which to move.



Vanderbergs — First residents of Spruce View Hamlet.

We lived in two tents till early fall while our first building was being constructed and a gas pump installed. That building was 20' x 32' consisting of one room for living quarters — 14' x 20', and a 18' x 20' room for the store.

One of the worst hail storms I had ever seen or heard came that summer. It came across the Lewis field like a white sheet, with a real roar. Van came running from his work and said, "Hazel, grab the kids and run for the other tent." (Which was the heaviest one.) I did, taking along a plate of doughnuts that I had just made. Supper was on the table, but when the storm was over, the food was ruined with water — I could have cried. However, I went to work and made

a new supper, while Van was busy getting bedding dried, so we could retire for the night.

Vic Anderson, still of that district, purchased the first gas from our hand-pumped gas pump. The late Mrs. Fred Hart was my first lady visitor, coming on a saddle horse, while we were still in tents. The main tent, of course, had a wood floor, and was boarded up several feet for walls.

All of the neighbors were so wonderful in extending a helping hand, and soon we found that we could make a living there. We soon built a bigger and better store with living quarters. It had a large kitchen and a living room on the main floor and five bedrooms, upstairs.

The road coming west of Innisfail was a dirt road for a while, but soon was high graded and well gravelled.

It was in 1944 that Mrs. Onsum sold her half section to Mr. Viggo Johnson, and they decided to sell us the two acres that we had rented for ten years. Later, we sold the property we owned across the road, to the late Jack Reilly. We had bought it from Hein Heinsen and used it for barn, well, etc.

Van trucked for a short time with our little converted truck. Soon, we bought a one ton GMC, and from this time on bought larger trucks as required to carry on our business.

In April 1955, at the age of 59, Van had a fatal heart attack. He is buried in the Innisfail Cemetery.

We have three sons — Allan, Kenneth, and Leslie. Also, one daughter Evelyn (Lewis) who clerks in the Co-op store.

I carried on for another year with Les on the truck. He was 19 and the work was sure heavy. Allan, the oldest son, had already been in the navy several years, and Ken was attending Technical school in Calgary taking a course in electricity.

As for myself, I had a heart condition, so, we decided to sell. Howard Thompson of Heckla bought everything and took over July 1, 1956. I moved into Red Deer where I owned a small house which my family had built in 1949, for my parents. Mother passed away in 1950 and Dad stayed with me till his death in 1960 at nearly 89 years of age.

I started clerking part time in Eaton's yard goods department the spring of '57, and left this work, which I loved, in the fall of 1966. In September 1964, I married Joe Nicholson, a former Watkins dealer of the Spruce View district.

We are now retired and living in Red Deer."

OTTO ZIMMERMAN

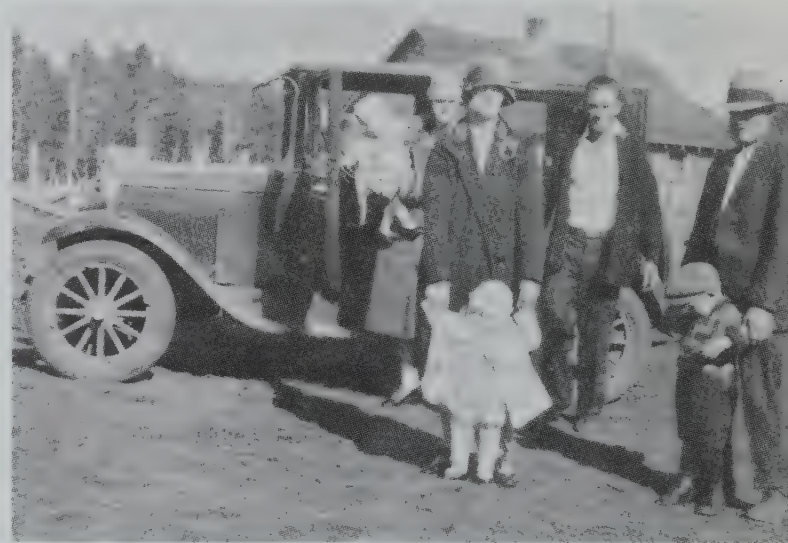
Otto was born in Surprise, Saskatchewan, and came with his family to Olds, Alberta. He was married to Dorothy Thorlakson, who was born in Markerville. Otto, Dorothy and two small daughters came to the district in 1946. They lived on the Armstrong farm NW21-36 for a short time before buying NE 21-36 from Robert D. Jensen. Today, when the family gets together they enjoy talking about the good times and not-so-good times in the little house on that farm. Otto engaged in the buying and selling of machinery

and horses. He worked as a salesman for C. Kasha of Eckville.

In 1952, Otto sold to Carl Nielsen and moved to Innisfail where he operated a service station and later took over the Cockshutt Agency. He was successful in winning many awards and was the Top Volume Dealer for Southern Alberta for several years. Still interested in farming he purchased a farm on the outskirts of Innisfail. His main interest was taking his ponies to gymkanas and race meets. In 1968 he won several Racing Awards and won the Alberta Pony Chuckwagon Trophy at Camrose.

After a busy racing season, Otto went to Billings, Montana to take the Auctioneer course he always wanted. He and Dorothy live in Innisfail. They have a family of four children: Carole, (Mrs. John Eliuk) lives in Calgary. Gloria, (Mrs. Wallace Erickson) attended university and is teaching in Red Deer. Sandra (Mrs. Francis Trehearne) of Bowden, John, attending school in Innisfail.

Dorothy passed away in 1973.



Lewis' — Audrey and Betty, Ivy and Bob, George H., Bill and Jim — 1929.



Dickson High School Class (at the dormitory) — 1937.

BRANDS

	CATTLE	HORSE		CATTLE	HORSE
Anderson, David	Aa		McKean, F.S.	OX R.R.	OX R.C.
Baker, Ben		OO R.S.	Miller, Chas.	YX	
Bardal, A.	XU9	PG	Nelson Bros.	NE L.H.	UK L.H.
Bjarnason, J.	BV R.H.		Paul, H.	JF	HF
Budvarson, E. D.	EB		Rowles, H.	CN5	
Budvarson, S. H. and A.	av	GS	Schmidek, Dan	(D)	
Dahms, L.	SO		Steel, Deryl	EO L.H.	
Darbyshire, E.	TI		Stephanson, B.	C6X R.Side	
Donnelly, E.	WU		Stephanson, S. G.	C6X R.S.	
Fountain, Wm.	NE		Thompson, Marvin	TT L.R.	
Giselman, F.	4G		Thompson, Peter Sr.	LT L.R.	
Hansen, Jacob	JH		Thompson, T. O.	OT L.R.	
Heinsen, H. F.	73 L.H.		Thorlakson, G.	CV7 R.R.	G♥ R.T.
Hjalmson, C. G.	M'		Vandaele, C.	EN	
Holbrook, F.	ZH R.R.		Westergaard, Mads	MW R.H.	
Hunford, J.	6↓	H7	Whidden, E.	EW L.H.	
Johannson, G.	FL R.S.		Willsie, Oliver	XI	
Johannson, Sigtriggur	SJ	2J R.T.	Parsons, Newt	YN L.H.	
Lewis, James	WL R.H.		Strain	YN L.H.	
Maxson, Sam	8TU	SS	Marshall, J. C.	m2 L.R.	
Maxson, S.	7U				

DICKSON

Dickson . . . home through the years!
When I the moments now recall,
That happily I spent within
Your green confines, and mind me how
Those moments joyful past, oh then,
As past and present passions blend,
My heart starts leaping: . . . I send
A thought o'er hill and lea,
Surcharged with memory
Of snowflakes, cattle, dog, and friend.

A halo seems to crown
Each thing that cheers the backward mind:
The willow bushes by the brook,
The poplar trees atop a ridge
Scrawny against the winter's sky,
The spired church with school house nigh,
Cane-toting Joe, close-lipped and dour,
Blithe, blue-eyed Nell with flowing tresses,
Clad in brightest calico dresses,
And sparkling like a parkland flower.

Sternly the hand of time,
Unmoved by sentiment, has worked
Its will on nature's rough-hewn face;
Bushes and trees have toppled down,
And where in shelter of a grove
Wild pinkish roses bloomed and throve,
And tiger lillies danced and reeled,
And cattle heedless grazed
By trails a trapper blazed,
The plow has wrought a barley field.

O changes of the years!
On knoll and hill and space between.
Gone, gone, the frills of yesteryear;
But something still abides of which
I am a part, and it a part
Of me . . . something that stirs the heart;
Lo, me it girdles like a band:
Be it . . . the matchless sky,
The friends that come me nigh,
The witchery of parklands grand!

by C.M. Christiansen

AT CLOSE OF DAY

When sunny hills are draped in velvet shadows
By summer night,
And Lady Moon hangs out among the treetops
Her crescent bright;
And when the velvet evening breeze is cooling
My fevered brow,
And all who toil, rejoice that blessed night time
Approaches now.

When out among the herds, the bells are tinkling
Now clear, now faint,
And in the woods a lonely bird is voicing
His evening plaint;
And when the breeze with drowsy accent whisper
Its melody,
And from the brook the joyous cries of children
Are borne to me;

When fields of grain have caught a gleam of
moonlight
But dark the ground;
A pearl gray mist has filled to overflowing
The dells around;
Some golden stars are peeping forth to brighten
The eastern wood;
Then I am resting out upon the doorstep
In nature's mood.

My heart reflects the rest and sweet rejoicing
Around above:
And beauty is in universal language
And peace and love;
And all things seem to join in benediction
And prayers for me:
And at nights loving heart both Earth and Heaven
At rest I see.

And when the last of all my days is over
The last page turned;
And whatsoever shall be deemed in wages
That I have earned,
In such a mood, I hope to be composing
My sweetest lay,
And then extend my hand to all the world,
And pass away.

By the Icelandic Poet
Stephan G. Stephansson
Translated by
Jacobina Johnson

Excerpts from "DICKSON DAYS"

Our gracious heavenly Father
So almighty and so wise,

Looking down on little Denmark,
Planned the lives of some from there,

They settled in the Southland
In good old U.S.A.
And worked beneath the hot sun —
They dreamed of far away,
Where cool, fresh, mountain breezes,
Sweep rich, black, virgin soil;
Where labour reaps a treasure;
Where there's pay for every toil.

Then Fred, he said to Sena.
"Have you ever seen the like,
The landlord's raised the rent again;
I guess that means we hike.
Up north, there's land for taking,
'Tis free to all who come.
Perhaps we too should go there,
We too, would then have some".

They went to Carl Christiansen's,
And planned their future there.
They formed their congregation;
The strange unknown they dare.
Then can't you see dear Laura
With coffee pot in hand,
Serve lunch and ablekage
To those who sit or stand.

They chose to send H. Larsen,
And a man by the name of Jens,
To find and search the new land,
To guide their footprints thence.

"The land is rich, and fertile,
The winter grass is tall,"
Was the answer that was given
To the question of them all.
So they packed their meagre house-things,
They said their last goodbyes;
They left for a land of sunshine,
For Alberta's sunny skies.

The cattle, all the livestock,
Some ten or fifteen head,
The dishes, chairs and chickens,
The tables and the beds.

There was Fred and John and Christensen,
To water all those cows.
So when the locomotive stopped,
They really had to rouse.
And Fred began to fill the pails,
The others were in line,
When suddenly the train did move,
And Fred was left behind.

The ladies left Nebraska
For this land, to join their men.
At Innisfail the train arrived —
They disembarked again.
They rented a hotel room.
The men would give them place,
For when ladies came to stay here,
They simply must have space.

For the coming of the ladies,
The shed had been all cleaned.
The corners had been tidied,
The kettles shone and gleamed,
The rough and knotted floorboards,
Had been scrubbed with utmost care.
But upon the fruit which lay below,
Leak down the water dared.

The death of horse and cattle,
Made living very lean.
Destruction of their chattel;
Made hardships seem more keen.

Before the chickens all had died,
Their hunger made them brave.
Within the precincts of a tent,
One chicken, hunger drove,
Beneath the tables and the chairs,
Upon the lady's bed.
The bacon in the frying pan.
Upon a piece, it fed.

But in spite of all their sorrows,
Joy could also be their lot.
For in fellowship of other saints,
God's word was always taught.
The beginning of our homes here,
Was upon the "Solid Rock".
Our salvation, it depended,
Upon the Lamb without a spot.

By
Eleanor Pedersen.
In memory of her Grandfather
Fred Pedersen.

Quiet, neighborly, and at all times sincere
With respect to his fellow-man
He never meant harm to anyone
And has outlived his allotted span.

A native of Iceland, he never forgot
To be loyal to the land of his birth;
And remembering him we can steadfastly say,
'Here was a man of worth'.

A true pioneer to the end of his days
To be friendly and kind was his role;
He's sung his song, he's done his work
And now he has reached his goal.

We speak of the miracle of a baby's birth
And of a baby's Heavenly smile:
'But did you ever see the miracle of a dear old soul
Entering the Sacred Isle?'

No dread or fear of the Great Beyond
Or what might lie a head;
Only memories and thankfulness
For a good, long life, well led.

Don't weep for the things that might have been,
Enjoy what you have today,
For while you are weeping for finer scenes
They might silently slip away.

The ravenous urgency of reckless youth
Melts away with the passing years,
And perhaps to late, we learn the truth,
And can scoff at our wasted tears.

For the greatest joy in the lives we live,
If we open our eyes and see,
Is the hand in help and friendship give
And our joy in the things that be.

By Edythe M. Groves

Roll of Honour

Alfred Andersen
John Baynham
Jake Bohn
Logan Glenn

William Gowans
Anker Jensen
Robert Johnson
Armand Sabourin

Tristia hemigrata fr. dakota til alberta hist 10000

1 Sigfrósa Björnsdóttir
2 Ólafur Ólafsson
3 Benedikt Baldur
4 Einar Jónsson Laki
5 J. P. Hinnfjörð
6 Benedikt Ólafsson
7 Þósti Ólafsson
8 Sigríður Jónsdóttir
9 Þórunn Jónsdóttir
10 frá Winnipeg í samahöfðu tóku far til Calgary
11 frá Þórunn og Jón Einarsson umkleppur einn
12 Einar Jónsson og Jón Einarsson settast í Calgary
13 frá Calgary Sigríður Jónsdóttir og Einar Jónsson
14 John Johnson mikið komu.
15 27 þessari forhöfuðum yfir B. 1. 1. 1938
16 á inni myndunum. Einar Jónsson Jónsson
17 og 4 menn einhleypir. Einar Jónsson
18 Sigríður Jónsdóttir alþýttur er einn
19 í þessari eina frá Bretland til Calgary og settist
20 þar á 1938 á 50 ára afmæli sínu myndunum.

era nilifandis ibigdimi
 her & mrs J. Barni Jones of Johnson
 of Samson's High's Goodness. Edmonson
 of Boin eplatta met forelun sinum

Olds Alta
17th May 1915

Agreement between John G Deans
and John Alfred Baynham re work

I agree to work on farm for John & Deans
from 20th May 1915 - till 1st of Oct 1915 -
for the Consideration of 1 Bay Mare (and
Colt) weight about 1100 lbs age 6 years old
free of all insurances

Signed J. H. Pennington

I agree to fill the above agreement.
and abide by the same

John G Deans

11 1048
Innisfail, Alta. March 19. 1929

The Royal Bank of Canada

INNISFAIL BRANCH

PAY TO
Garnet Oxley
One Thousand and fifty Eight Dollars
Payment in full for tractor
and runs.
for Lewis

PATRON'S STATEMENT
No 686

MARKERVILLE CREAMERY
MARKERVILLE, ALBERTA.

Name *G. E. Carter*

P. O.

Size of Crib	No. of Weights	Grade	First %	Second %	Third %	Fourth %	Fifth %	Sixth %	Seventh %	Eighth %	Ninth %	Tenth %
78	4	30	23.4	18	14	10	8	5	3	2	1	1

DATE
\$
DOLLARS

Date. 1929

Sold to
Account Forwarded

12771100 0001060000

No 1527

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 341

RECEIPT FOR TAXES

Received from *L. Lewis* of *Mountain House*
the sum of *100* DOLLARS
being amount due Local Improvement District No. 341 for Taxes for the year *1929*
on the following Lands: *10-12-36-3-5* *4.00 to balance*
10-12-36-3-5

This is to Certify that
Humar Schato
has purchased
Victory Bonds
of the
Seventh Victory Loan
of the Dominion of Canada

Dated at MOUNTAIN HOUSE, this day of Oct. Nov., 1944

GASOLINE LICENCE and RATION COUPON BOOK

COMMERCIAL 1945 1946

C 97057

For Motor Vehicle Licence Plate No.

F33819

Pour la plaque de licence de véhicule automobile No

RMIS D'ESSENCE et RATION COUPONS DE RATIONS

CAST STEEL GRUB HOE

MATTOCK LONG CUTTER

99F1061. Long Outer Mattock, 12 in. blade, 4 inch hoe52
99F1060. Cast Steel Grub Hoe, 1 inch blade42

Coupon detached by purchaser permits delivery of
GRADED GASOLINE
DESSANCE CLASSEE 1945
1946
F33819
COUPON DETACHE PAR LE FOURNISSEUR DONNE UNITE A

WESTERN TEAM OX HARNESS



Set Complete for two Oxen 10.50
Half Set. One Ox 5.50

37F187. Neck Straps, 1 1/2 in. wide, layer on top. Pair..... 1.50
37F188. Collars, black leather, open bottom, well stuffed. Each, with hames... 2.75

37F189. Hames Tugs, 1 1/2 in. doubled and stapled, with square for back band to buckle in, and hook to attach to steel chain traces. Set of four..... 2.00
37F190. Traces, 6 ft. long. Set of four..... 1.00
37F191. Back Strap, 1 1/2 in. with wide layer over back. For pair..... 1.00

WESTERN OX HARNESS

37F192. Set complete. Shipping weight 40 lbs..... 10.50
37F193. Ox Halters, 1 in. black leather, 15 in. halter chain attached. Each..... .50

One used Ford Automobile
according to following description, specifications and price:

1 used Ford 5 pass. Car
Motor #108127

100.00

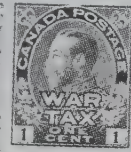
Calgary, Alta., April 28

1914

\$ 86.00 On or before the First day of December 1914
for value received, I promise to pay to the COCKSHUTT PLOW CO., Limited, or order, the sum of
Eighty DOLLARS, at their
Office in Calgary, in the Province of Alberta, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent per annum until
due and 10 per cent. per annum after maturity and until paid.

Given by W. J. Pendergast Special 3 1/4 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 Complete 7 16-14 disc harrows P. G.

The title, ownership, and right to the possession of the property or personal property, or for any reason the COCKSHUTT power to declare it and all other notes, mortgages and obligations, intent and purpose being sufficiently made and declared if the same be the said Company, shall not be necessary to notify me of the dictation at Calgary, Alberta and the said COCKSHUTT I or any renewal thereof is paid, with interest as provided, or suit at obligations, after deducting all expenses in connection with such to hereunder either at public auction or private sale shall not, notw any Statutory conditions in that behalf made and provided reser theless remain in full force and effect notwithstanding such comp remain due after such re-taking and re-sale, and suit may be ent



remain in the COCKSHUTT PLOW CO., Limited, or their assigns until this note or any renewal thereof, or should I sell, mortgage or dispose of my landed e hereafter consider this note or any renewal thereof in force, it shall have full force or hereafter due and payable forthwith, and such declaration shall for every hereof, or on any of said mortgages, notes or obligations by any officer or agent of suit therefor may be entered, and finally disposed of in the Court having juris- appearing of events said declaration of suit shall be the same until this note ds thereof to be applied, and the amount thereof, or on any of said notes and agreed and understood that the taking of possession hereunder and the re-sale company with any of the terms or conditions in this note, or non-compliance with ise, be deemed to operate as a resignation of this contract, but the same shall never- such taking possession and re-sale I do hereby agree to pay the balance which may for such balance.

The land which I reside on is N. W.

Sec. 17

Tp. 35

Rge. 3 W. 5

A. L. Baynham NAME

(Say what part of Section)

Kearville POST OFFICE

W. J. Pendergast AGENT

W. J. Pendergast WITNESS

23927 A. L. Baynham

B. R. No.

Bill of Sale

This is to certify that Mr John
Baynham bought of A Z Bugh
the Black Pony. Branded. T & F. shoulder.
Named Molly. For the sum
of Sixty Five dollars

STEWART BROS.

DEALERS IN

HARDWARE, LUMBER and IMPLEMENTS

Penhold. Sept 7 1932

Sold to

Gas Lowans
Evarts

Sold by	Got by	Checked by
1 8' Duby Binder		
2 Retuilt C.P.		185.00
3		
4 By 7 Head Cattle		
5		100.00
6 By 3000 Due		
7 Nov 1/32		85.00

The Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company

= 1896 =

HEAD OFFICE, WAWANESA, MAN.

ALEX. NAISMITH,
President.

CHAS. D. KERN,
Treasurer.

A. F. KEMPTON,
Secretary and Manager.

Amount insured, \$ for months

Commences at 12 noon 190 Expires at 12 noon 190

Whereas
paid the sum of Dollars
to THE WAWANESA MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY for insuring from Loss or Damage by Fire or Lightning the property
hereinafter described, not exceeding the sum specified on each article, viz:

On his 1st story, log, shingle roofed Building, size 12x12
On his Furniture, Clothing, Iron, Books and Pictures (not more than 1.
On one picture), Clocks, Watches, Plates, Plate-glass and Jewelry, amount
One Hundred Dollars
On his 1st story, frame, shingle roofed Building, size 12x12
Sixty-five Dollars

FORM 204 School District Tax Receipt

Receipt

No. *1452*

Tax Receipt

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF *Wawanesa* No. *1452*

Received from *Mr. James Lewis*
the sum of Dollars, being taxes on

Sec.	Tp.	Rge.	West	Mer.	\$
Sec.	Tp.	Rge.	West	Mer.	\$
Sec.	Tp.	Rge.	West	Mer.	\$
Sec.	Tp.	Rge.	West	Mer.	\$
Arrears Taxes					\$
Penalty on Arrears					\$
Total					\$ <i>5.22</i>

Dated at this day of 191*4*

Chas. Engle
Sec. Treas.



Dickson Choir Reunion — 1946.



Gathering at Carl Christiansen home — 1908.



Hindbo's first shelter at New Hill — 1934. Mr. and Mrs. Hindbo, Jenny, Meta, Hans and Johnson Bros.



Bethel Ladies Aid (1920).



A gathering at Nels Westergaard's Sr.



Tom Benson family (Raven).



Dedication Service for Ole Benediktson (Markerville).



Mr. and Mrs. "Buz" Herrold. Mr. and Mrs. Rob't Shannon, Sr.



Peter Adamsen, Sr. and family, Dickson.



Hola School pupils, 1940. Mrs. M. Westergaard teacher.



Birthday Party at Henry Linneberg's.



Charles Bradley family.



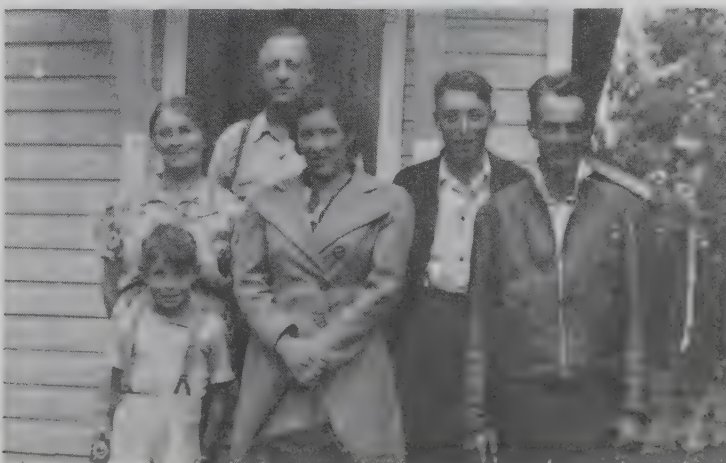
Church gathering at Martin Larsen's (Red Raven).



Rickard family at the Clark Place (Red Raven).



The Lowry Family, New Hill.



The Stringer Family, New Hill.



Winter sleigh ride. Craig.



Peter Thompson Sr. T. O. Thompson family.



Ice Carnival at New Hill — 40 degrees below zero.



John and Margaret Jones (Happy Hill).



Mel Rickard Sr. family.



John Holmgren (New Hill, 1908).



Albert Johannson.



Mr. and Mrs. Jeppe Hindbo on their 25th wedding anniversary — 1939.



Mr. and Mrs. Rob't Shannon, Sr.



Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Christensen, Dickson.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Larsen, Dickson.



John Holmgren, Freda Linneberg, and Helmer Holmgren.



Golden Wedding — Mr. and Mrs. Tom Benson.



Nels and Mr. and Mrs. Rasmus Jensen (Red Raven).



Markerville School — L. to R.: Odie Anderson, Eric Morkeberg, Virgil Flake, John Benediktson, Dean Paul, Casner Anderson.



Ready for the masquerade. Thora, Peter and Marvin Thompson, Helen Rodgers (Heckla teacher).



Central Ball Team.



Official opening of the Garrington Bridge.



Markerville pupils. Teacher, Nora Johnson.



Red Raven ball team — 1947.



Happy Hill pupils, 1925.



At Markerville school — Pearl Lemon, Annie Anderson, Virgil Flake, Eric Morkeberg, Dean Paul, Odie Anderson and John Benediktson.



Craig Pupils — 1935.



Red Raven — 1941. Teacher, W. J. Sloan.



Spruce View pupils — 1933.



Rich Hill pupils.



Budvarson's at New Hill.



Pupils at Crooked Creek about 1920.



Pupils at Crooked Creek.



The Holroyds — Phyllis, Idabell, Ruby, Leonard and a friend.



Earl and Edwin Donnelly, New Hill.



Barney Hunford — mail courier, Dickson, 1910.



Original New Hill Post Office.



Home of George Flake built 1903.



Alfred Andersen and his "Model T".



Effie Shannon crossing Raven in flood.



Home from trapping — Lester McKain.



Darlene Innes ready for school five and a half miles away.



Getting winter fuel ready. Henry Linneberg and Gary.



Mel Rickard at Stampede at Arthur Johnson's about 1920 (Rich Hill).



Sawing wood at Cecil Stephanson's (Hola).



Stampeding at Arthur Johnson's (Rich Hill).



The daily chore. H. Heinsen, J. Booth.



Sharpening sheep shears — Gus Sveinbjornson, Arni Hjalmsen.



Earl "Mike" McKain at Martin Larsen's sawmill.



Mark Johnson camp — Jammer for piling logs (Rich Hill).



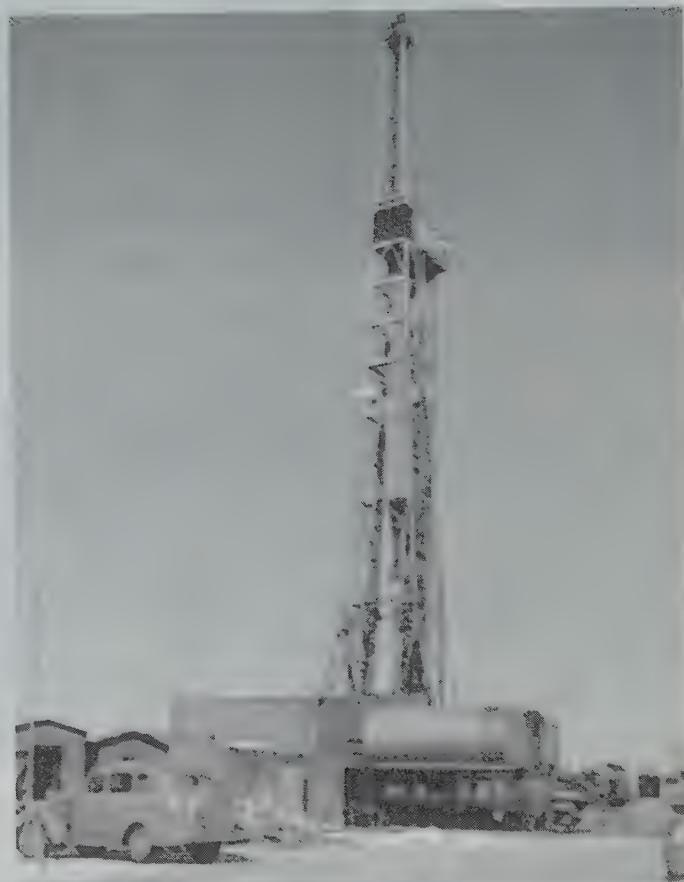
Hauling firewood at Red Raven.



Hauling logs at Red Raven.



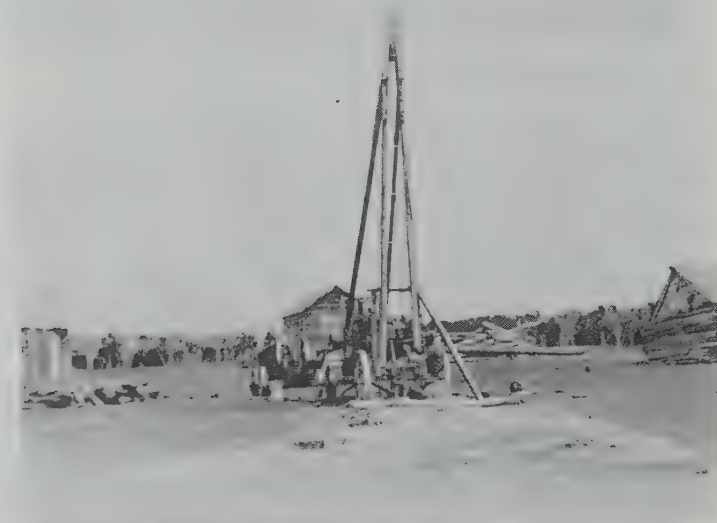
Clearing land.



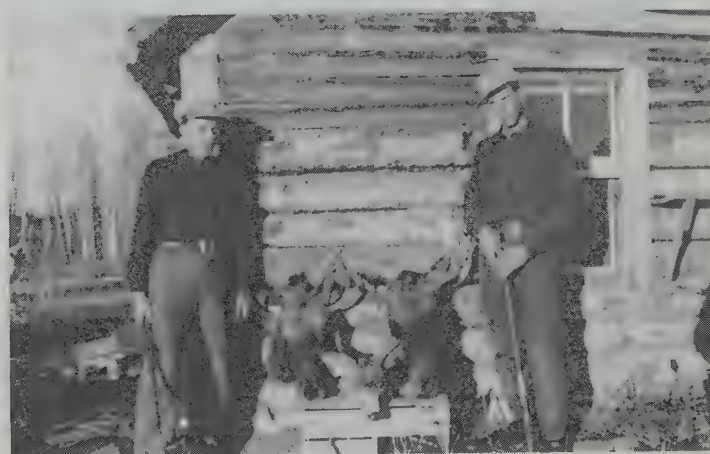
New Hill. First oil well in Central Alberta.



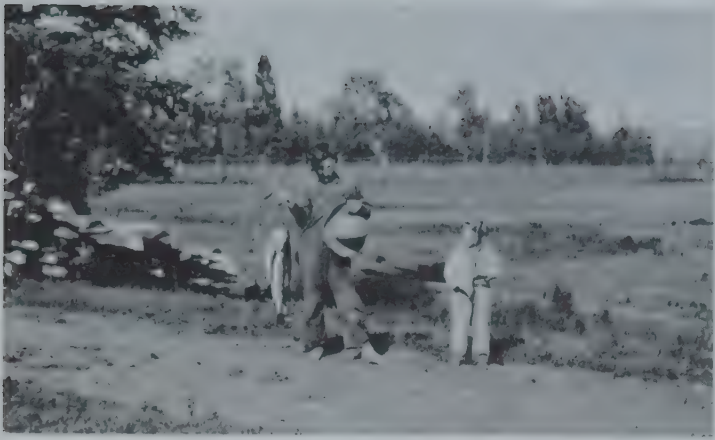
Arthur Larsen, Dickson.



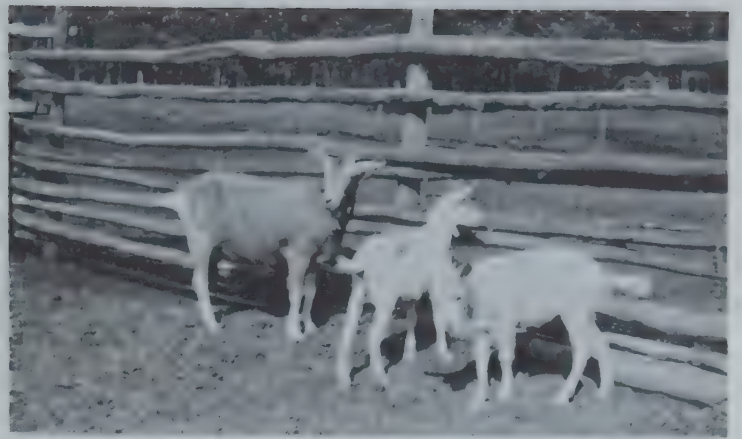
Drilling a well — 1924, Markerville.



Ernest and Bob Ostergren with their trophies (New Hill).



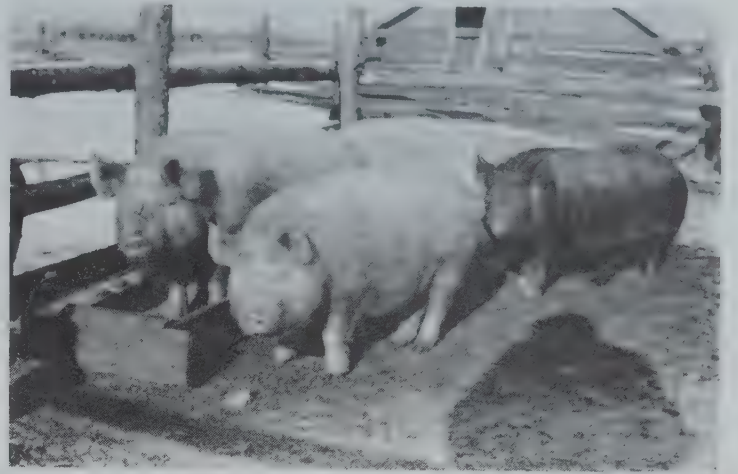
Eric Knight (Raven) with a catch of fish.



Goats at New Hill.



Open horse race — Hale Lake Stampede.



Hale Lake Stampede.



Rasmus Jensen's log barn (Red Raven).



Hale Lake Stampede — 1937.



Baldur and Cecil Stephanson.



"Cow with a Poke."



Mrs. Mary Rickard with her geese (Red Raven).



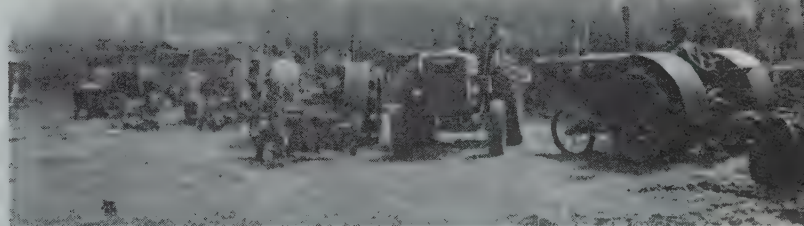
Percy Ransom — beekeeper, 1935.



Lloyd Innes' alarm clock.



Mrs. Rasmus Jensen in her garden (Red Raven).



Work crew putting in crop for Leithead family, Happy Hill.



Joe and John Jones, 1922 (Happy Hill).



Homemade sweep and stacker. Emil Browns' (Red Raven).



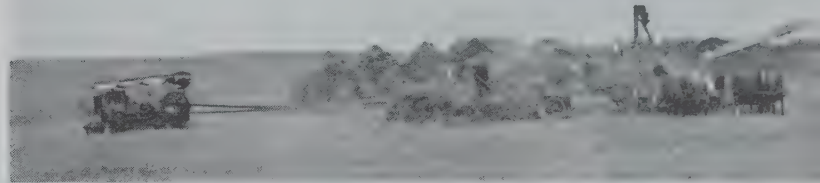
Chris Anderson (Rich Hill) cultivating potatoes.



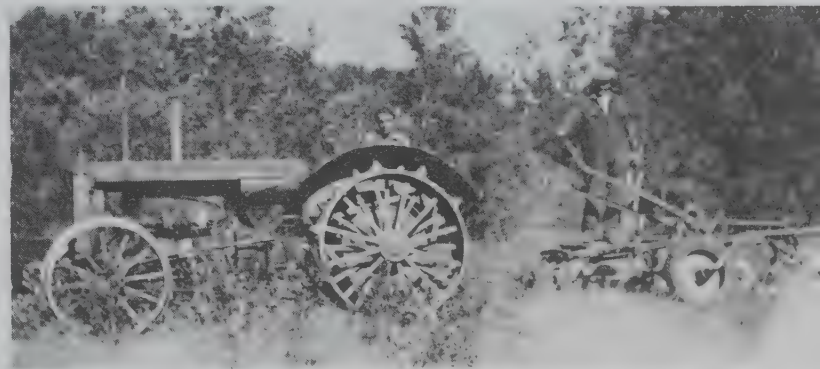
L. to R.: Dezall, Savage, Bob Shannon, Sr., Don Parker, Jack Shannon at Shannon's (Red Raven).



Gordon Stringer and Lloyd Bentley hauling hay. Wet summer of 1954.



Stack threshing at Thordor Thompson's (Markerville).



Plowing at Cecil Andrew's, Red Raven — 1943.



Ed. Gloer, Mrs. Nels Solland, Ernest Ostergren.



Sam Einarson cutting hay (1908 Markerville).



Sweeping bundles to Brown's thresher. Red Raven, 1941.



Lunch Break. Ben Lee and Lorane Herman returning from hunting trip (Red Raven).



Lloyd Bentley, Edwin Stringer, Elwin Donnelly, Gordon Stringer, Earl Donnelly threshing crew.



Bob Ostergren sweeping hay.



Stacking hay at P. Johannsons, Markerville.



Horses rear at the threshing machine.



Bill Lewis, Richter Jensen, P. Mosgaard, Chester Lewis, Frank Vandaele, James Lewis.



Threshing at Craig.



Binder at Rich Hill.



Soren Westergaard, Dean Paul — 1939.



Haying at Happy Hill — Bucking Pole.



Nels Linneberg breaking — 1912.



Borden and Wallace Shannon (Red Raven).



Crooked Creek in flood.



Spring flooding at B. Kirkpatrick's. Craig.



Garrington Ferry in winter.



Spring Breakup. Emil and Courtney Brown moving rack and granary home.



Joys of Winter.



Medicine River in flood. Markerville Curling Rink — 1948.



At Raven.



Beaver Dam on Dickson Creek. Henry Larsen (centre).



New Dickson Church — 1968.



Home hair cut. Barber, Gordon Stringer (New Hill).



George Engman, Bill Lowry, Edwin Stringer pushing car through the mud.



End of an Era.

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